

DRAFT

OHMVR COMMISSION PROGRAM REPORT

2011

California State Parks – Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division



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1 INTRODUCTION

2 California's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program has
3 as its primary goal and legislative intent the dual central themes that (1)
4 off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation be managed to provide high quality
5 opportunities for OHV recreation, and (2) balanced with protecting the
6 state's natural and cultural resources. These dual commitments are
7 accomplished through the provision of recreational opportunities directly
8 at State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRA) owned and operated by the
9 California State Parks through the OHMVR Division (Division) and by
10 financial and technical assistance to other public and non-profit entities
11 who provide and manage opportunities as well as enforce the laws
12 associated with motorized recreation.

13 As required by Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5090.24(h), Duties
14 and Responsibilities of the Commission, this report is submitted by the
15 OHMVR Commission (Commission) to inform the Governor and
16 Legislature of progress and developments in the state's OHMVR Program:

17 *Prepare and submit a program report to the Governor, the Assembly*
18 *Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, the Senate Committee on*
19 *Natural Resources and Water, and the Committee on Appropriations*
20 *of each house on or before January 1, 2011, and every three years*
21 *thereafter. The report shall be adopted by the commission after*
22 *discussing the contents during two or more public meetings. The*
23 *report shall address the status of the program and off-highway motor*
24 *vehicle recreation, including all of the following:*

- 25 1. *The results of the strategic planning process completed*
26 *pursuant to subdivision (1) of Section 5090.32.*
- 27 2. *The condition of natural and cultural resources of areas and*
28 *trails receiving state off-highway motor vehicle funds and the*
29 *resolution of conflicts of use in those areas and trails.*
- 30 3. *The status and accomplishments of funds appropriated for*
31 *restoration pursuant to paragraph (s) of subdivision (b) of*
32 *Section 5090.50.*

- 33 4. *A summary of resource monitoring data compiled and*
34 *restoration work completed.*
- 35 5. *Actions taken by the division and department since the last*
36 *program report to discourage and decrease trespass of off-*
37 *highway motor vehicles on private property.*
- 38 6. *Other relevant program-related environmental issues that have*
39 *arisen since the last program report.*

40 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

41 When it established the OHMVR Program, the Legislature recognized that
42 the growing popularity of off-highway motor vehicles requires effectively
43 managed areas and adequate facilities to accommodate the demand for
44 recreational activity of off-highway motor vehicles along with
45 conservation and enforcement to achieve ecologically balanced
46 recreation that addresses potential deleterious impacts on the
47 environment, wildlife habitats, native wildlife, and native flora.

48 In 1971, through enactment of the Chappie-Z'berg Off-Highway Motor
49 Vehicle Law (the Law), the Legislature addressed the growing use of
50 motorized vehicles off-highway by adopting requirements for the
51 registration and operation of motor vehicles used off-highway. In
52 addition, the Law provided funding for administration of the program
53 along with providing facilities for off-highway motor vehicle recreation.
54 (California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 38000, et seq.)

55 The Law was founded on the principle that managed OHV use is essential
56 for conserving and protecting the environment. The Law required
57 maintenance and oversight to allow for sustainable OHV use consistent
58 with good environmental stewardship.

59 In 1982, these principles were expanded upon through enactment of the
60 Off-highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Act, which has been amended
61 numerous times and is now referred to as the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle
62 Recreation Act of 2003 (OHMVR Act) (PRC Section 5090.01, et seq.).

63 The OHMVR Act intends that existing OHV areas be expanded, added to,
64 and managed to sustain areas for long-term motor vehicle recreation and
65 that the OHMVR Program support motorized off-highway access to non-
66 motorized recreation opportunities. The Act requires the OHMVR Program
67 be given equal priority with other programs administered in the State
68 Park System.

69 With the OHMVR Act, the Legislature created a separate division within
70 California State Parks, the OHMVR Division, which has the exclusive
71 authority for administering the OHMVR Program. The Division is charged
72 with all aspects of managing the OHMVR Program.

73 Most recently, in 2007, Senate Bill 742 was introduced by Senator
74 Steinberg and co-authored by Assembly Member Wolk. This legislation
75 made a number of significant changes to clarify and strengthen the
76 OHMVR Program related to funding, responsibilities of the Commission
77 and Division, and the allocation of grant funds. It also extended the
78 OHMVR Program sunset to January 1, 2018, the longest sunset in the
79 history of the OHMVR Program. The bill received strong bi-partisan
80 support from the Assembly and the Senate as it passed through the
81 Legislature by a vote of 114-5.

82 THE OHMVR COMMISSION

83 The OHMVR Act also established the OHMVR Commission to provide a
84 public body of appointed members having expertise in various areas
85 related to off-highway recreation and environmental protection. The
86 Commission is dedicated to reviewing and commenting on Program
87 implementation, encouraging public input on issues and concerns
88 affecting the OHMVR Program, considering and approving general plans
89 for SVRAs, and providing advice to the Division on the OHMVR Program.

90 The Commission is a nine member body consisting of five members
91 appointed by the Governor, two by the Senate Committee on Rules, and
92 two appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly. The Commission has the
93 following duties and responsibilities:

- 94 ▪ Be fully informed regarding all governmental activities affecting the
95 OHMVR Program.
- 96 ▪ Meet at least four times per year at various locations throughout
97 the state to receive comments on the implementation of the
98 OHMVR Program. Establish an annual calendar of proposed
99 meetings at the beginning of each calendar year. The meetings
100 shall include a public meeting, before the beginning of each Grants
101 Program cycle, to collect public input concerning the OHMVR
102 Program, recommendations for program improvements, and specific
103 project needs for the system.
- 104 ▪ Hold a public hearing to receive public comment regarding any
105 proposed substantial acquisition or development project at a
106 location in close geographic proximity to the project, unless a

- 107 hearing consistent with federal law or regulation has already been
108 held regarding the project.
- 109 ▪ Consider, upon the request of any owner or tenant, whose property
110 is in the vicinity of any land in the system, any alleged adverse
111 impacts occurring on that person's property from the operation of
112 OHVs and recommend to the Division suitable measures for the
113 prevention of any adverse impact determined by the Commission to
114 be occurring, and suitable measures for the restoration of
115 adversely impacted property.
 - 116 ▪ Review and comment annually to the director on the proposed
117 budget of expenditures from the fund.
 - 118 ▪ Review all plans for new and expanded local and regional vehicle
119 recreation areas that have applied for grant funds.
 - 120 ▪ Review and comment on the strategic plan developed by the
121 Division pursuant to Section 5090.32.
 - 122 ▪ Prepare and submit a program report to the Governor, the
123 Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, the Senate
124 Committee on Natural Resources and Water, and the Committee on
125 Appropriations of each house on or before January 1, 2011, and
126 every three years thereafter. The report shall be adopted by the
127 Commission after discussing the contents.
 - 128 ▪ Additionally, the Commission approves general plans and
129 amendments to general plans for the SVRAs pursuant to Public
130 Resources Code section 5002.2.

131 **THE OHMVR DIVISION**

132 The Division operates eight SVRAs located throughout California and
133 supports local, state and federal OHV recreation areas through financial
134 and technical assistance and professional guidance.

135 The Division has exclusive duties and responsibilities for:

- 136 ▪ Planning, acquisition, development, conservation, and restoration
137 of lands in the SVRAs.

- 138 ▪ Management, maintenance, administration, and operation of
139 SVRAs.
- 140 ▪ Law enforcement and public safety activities.
- 141 ▪ Preparing and implementing plans for SVRAs.
- 142 ▪ Surveys and studies.
- 143 ▪ Volunteer programs.
- 144 ▪ Safety and education programs.
- 145 ▪ Strategic planning.

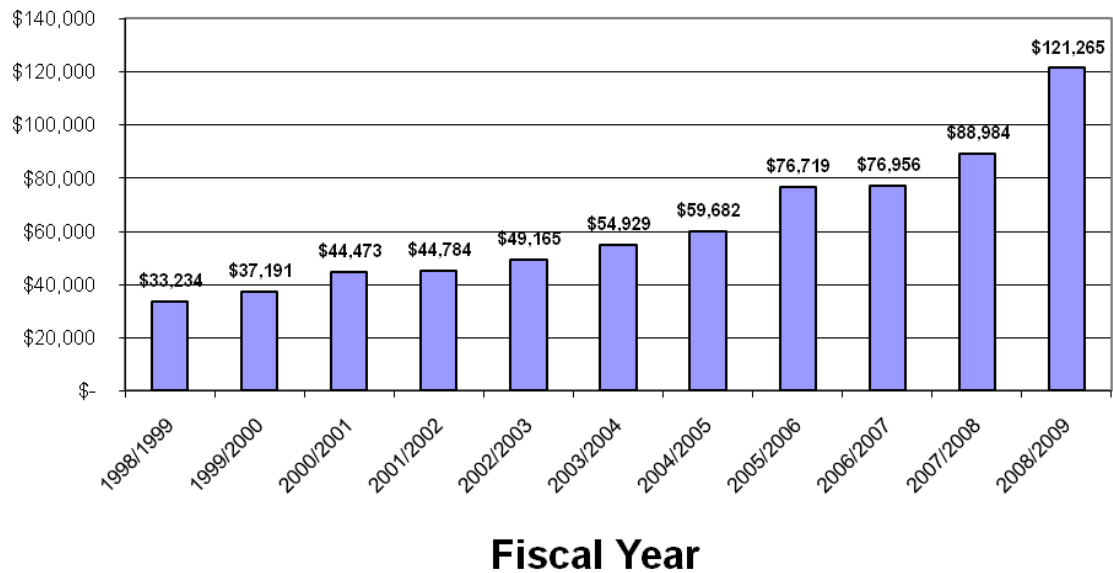
146 **PROGRAM FUNDING**

147 The OHMVR Program receives no support from the state's General Fund.
148 All funding is directly generated by the recreational community the
149 OHMVR Program serves. Funding comes primarily from three sources:

- 150 ▪ Fuel taxes from gasoline consumed in off-highway recreation on
151 public lands
- 152 ▪ OHV registration fees
- 153 ▪ Entrance fees generated at the SVRAs

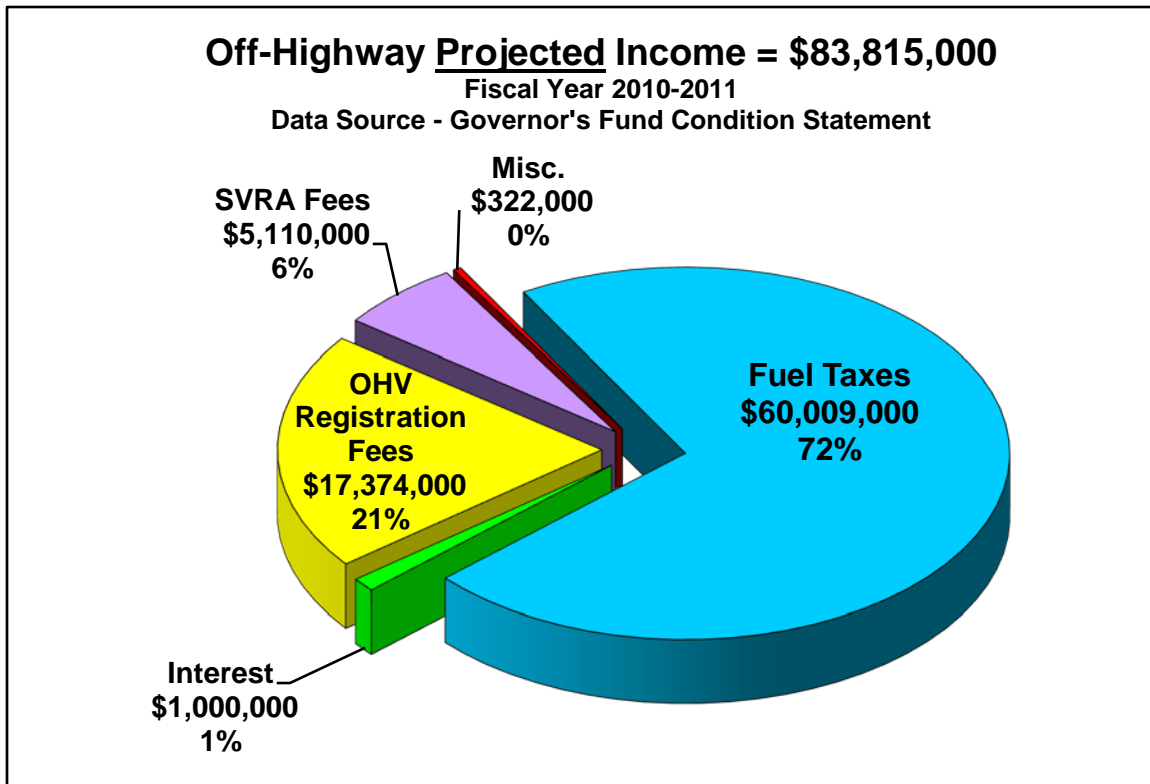
154 A history of income to the OHV Trust Fund over the past 10 years is
155 provided in the chart below:

OHV Trust Fund Income History



156

157 **NOTE:** A significant increase can be seen beginning in 07/08. SB 742,
158 enacted in 2008, increased OHV registration fees from \$25 to \$50,
159 payable every two years. The portion of these registration fees directed
160 to the OHV Trust Fund therefore rose from \$8 of the former \$25
161 registration payment, to \$33 for every \$50 registration payment.



162

163 Acquisitions and capital improvement projects are funded from any
164 excess revenue to the OHV Trust Fund over the amount budgeted for
165 routine program expenses. For several years funds available for
166 acquisition and capital improvement projects accumulated and remained
167 unallocated while the Division and the Commission worked on the
168 OHMVR Strategic Plan to develop a shared vision for the OHMVR
169 Program and establish priorities for the goals and objectives for the
170 future of the program, including acquisition priorities for additional
171 facilities and areas. Despite agreement with and adoption of the Strategic
172 Plan, however, these funds are not currently available to meet program
173 objectives due to recent budget actions which transferred OHV Trust
174 Funds to the state's General Fund. The budget action provides that these
175 transfers are a "loan" to be repaid at a future date.

176 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

177 REPORT REQUIREMENT 1:

178 *The results of the strategic planning process completed pursuant*
179 *to subdivision (1) of Section 5090.32.*

180 In 2008, the Division began the process of developing a shared vision
181 with the Commission, and developing a Strategic Plan to achieve that
182 vision. Based on a series of meetings with the Commission Sub-
183 committee and the public, a Vision
184 Statement was created and approved by
185 the Commission.

186 Through an extensive process that
187 included internal staff workshops and
188 public meetings, the Division conducted
189 a comprehensive assessment of external
190 and internal factors that affect the
191 OHMVR Program. Based on the
192 information gleaned during this process,
193 the Division developed strategic
194 planning goals and objectives.

195 Public review meetings, workshops, and
196 focus group meetings were conducted to
197 develop the draft that was submitted to
198 the Commission for review and
199 comment. After incorporating changes

200 based on the Commission comments and Commission meetings, as well
201 as comments from the public, the Strategic Plan was completed and
202 submitted in the fall of 2009 to the Governor and Department of Finance
203 for approval.

204 The Strategic Plan provides a road map for the OHMVR Division and is
205 based on four strategic themes and five guiding principles:

Vision Statement

The OHMVR Division
will assure ongoing
access to a wide
variety of high quality
OHV recreational
opportunities through
our commitment to
prudent resource
management, outdoor
recreation, community
education and
environmental
stewardship.

Strategic Themes

- ✓ Emphasize the Basics
- ✓ The Greening of OHV Recreation
- ✓ Improving Technology
- ✓ The New Gateway

Guiding Principles

- ✓ Sustainability
- ✓ Transparency in Decision Making
- ✓ Working with Partners and Volunteers
- ✓ Considering the Needs and Concerns of Stakeholders
- ✓ Sound Data for Management Decision Making

206 Based on these strategic themes and guiding principles, the Strategic
207 Plan adopts a framework of six goals for the OHMVR Program in order
208 to meet its legislative mandates.

209 **GOAL 1** - *Sustain Existing Opportunity: Protect, preserve, and*
210 *enhance existing OHV opportunities in a manner that ensures well*
211 *managed, interesting, and high quality experiences, and address*
212 *the environmental impacts that may be associated with those*
213 *activities.*

214 **GOAL 2** - *Increase OHV Opportunity: Add new OHV opportunities*
215 *where appropriate and needed to replace loss of existing*
216 *opportunities and respond to changing and future demand.*

217 **GOAL 3** - *Staff Development: Enhance the abilities of Program*
218 *managers and staff dedicated to the development, management,*
219 *and implementation of the OHMVR Program.*

220 **GOAL 4** - *Develop an Informed and Educated Community: Achieve*
221 *a highly informed and educated community associated with OHV*
222 *recreational activities, dedicated to safe and lawful OHV operation*
223 *and responsible environmental stewardship.*

224 **GOAL 5** - *Cooperative Relationships: Establish and maintain*
225 *productive relationships between individuals, organizations,*
226 *industry, and government agencies to cooperatively identify*
227 *problems and develop and implement solutions to advance the*
228 *Mission and Goals of the OHMVR Program.*

229 **GOAL 6** - *Informed Decision Making: Improve the quality, quantity,*
230 *and accessibility of information needed to support sound decision*
231 *making, transparency of administration, and communication with*
232 *the interrelated groups interested in, and associated with, the*
233 *OHMVR Program.*

234 For each of the goals listed above, the Strategic Plan lays out specific
235 objectives to be implemented to achieve the goal. The objectives include
236 anticipated timeframes for completion, and also describe performance
237 measures which can be tracked to verify objectives have been
238 accomplished. Finally, resource assumptions are included for each
239 objective which indicates whether additional resources will be needed in
240 order to achieve the objective.

REPORT REQUIREMENT 2:

The condition of natural and cultural resources of areas and trails receiving state off-highway motor vehicle funds and the resolution of conflicts of use in those areas and trails.

Protecting natural and cultural resources is essential to ensure OHV recreation areas are managed to sustain long-term use. Overall, the condition of natural and cultural resources being managed through financial contributions from the OHMVR Program have benefited from recent changes in the state's OHMVR Program. Though much has been accomplished, the OHMVR Program must continue its efforts to protect lands, maintain habitat, and repair damage caused by both legal and unauthorized OHV recreation.

The Division directly manages eight SVRAs. Below is a brief review of the condition of natural resources in these areas.

Clay Pit SVRA

Clay Pit SVRA is surrounded by the Oroville Airport, ranchland, and a California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) shooting range and Wildlife Area. The bowl-shaped topography has largely been created by past excavation of clay minerals used in the construction of the Oroville Dam. Dredge tailings from gold mining remain, primarily in the southeastern corner of the park, and a canal partially bisects the northern one-third of the park. The northern, upstream end of the canal is fed by a very small, seasonal drainage that arises outside the park to the north, draining part of the adjacent airport and surrounding uplands.

Most of the park consists of upland areas that experience dry, hot conditions during the summer and early fall. Vegetation within the park consists of three distinct plant communities. Upland locations, which are non-wetland areas, are vegetated with low growing grasses. Lowland locations consist mostly of wetland vegetation associated with vernal pool habitat, and a few areas consist of other wetland vegetation such as spikerush. Fremont cottonwoods are also found scattered throughout the park, offering areas of shade for park visitors.

273 Hydrology and run-on drainage issues from adjacent lands are
274 problematic as the property receives a good deal of stormwater and can
275 also flood from waters of the Feather River. A hydrology study currently
276 underway will assess site conditions and help determine future hydrology
277 management actions.

278 **Prairie City SVRA**

279 Located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada foothills, Prairie City SVRA
280 provides undulating terrain with elevations ranging from 240 – 350 feet.
281 The lands within the SVRA were previously used for a variety of activities
282 such as grazing, dredge mining, and industrial test sites, and similar
283 activities continue today on adjacent lands. Topography on the property
284 ranges from nearly level in the western sections of the property that are
285 generally characterized by old dredge tailings, to gently sloping and
286 steep hills with scattered remnants of blue oak woodlands in the east.
287 Within the eastern portion of the property, a number of branches of, or
288 tributaries to, Coyote Creek are found.

289 Vegetative communities consist of annual grassland, blue oak woodland,
290 chaparral, and Fremont cottonwood riparian areas, although much of the
291 site comprises exposed soil absent vegetation. The blue oaks are
292 protected from OHV activities by fencing that extends beyond the drip
293 line of each tree. The most common wildlife in the park include black-
294 tailed deer, coyotes, bobcats, striped skunks, California ground squirrels,
295 black-tailed jackrabbits, wild turkeys, and red-tailed hawks. The park is
296 also home to approximately 180 acres of vernal pools and wetlands.

297 The park is balancing protection of mature native oaks, permanent water
298 sources, and erodible soils with the maintenance of rideable acreage.
299 This park is one of the smallest SVRAs, and the condensed use makes it
300 a challenge to simultaneously improve conditions for both resources and
301 OHV recreation. The protection tools that work the best are often those
302 that incorporate a “recreation” component.

303 Sediment basins are cleaned out annually or as needed. The park
304 completed a major redesign of the existing sediment basin system in
305 2009. The basins were redesigned to be shallower and include baffling to
306 slow the water down, which allows the suspended sediment particles to

307 drop out of suspension. Each sediment basin has been outfitted with a
308 gravity feed skimmer that drains off the top couple inches of water,
309 containing the least amount of sediment, and pipes it to the next
310 sediment pond, where the cycle repeats. At the end of the process, the
311 goal is to have improved the retention time and have clean water leaving
312 the property. To minimize a source of sediment, several hardened
313 crossings were also installed. These designated crossings allow riding in
314 a perpendicular direction across the creek, but not along the creek
315 bottom.

316 Rotational hill climbs were started in 2005 and are re-worked and rotated
317 every one – two years. The area designated as the hill climb area is
318 approximately 2.5 acres. A rotational hill climb is intended to provide a
319 fun recreational area without generating excess sediment. The area is re-
320 worked with the soils from the sediment basin, which ensures the park
321 continues to use native soils.

322 The original vernal pool protective measures were completed in 1999,
323 including fencing and an interpretive panel. Without the influence of
324 grazing to control invasive plants, the habitat has degraded. Park staff
325 are working on a vernal pool vegetation management plan, particularly
326 focusing on eradicating the invasive vegetation. A new interpretive panel
327 will be installed in 2010.

328 The vernal pool vegetation management plan should reduce the amount
329 of invasive weeds, especially Medusahead and yellow starthistle affecting
330 that area. Within the OHV use area, however, managing invasive
331 vegetation, especially starthistle, has proven to be a greater challenge.
332 Starthistle is a difficult invasive weed to eradicate due to its aggressive
333 growth habits and nutrient requirements. Park Environmental Scientists
334 are considering a plan to implement biological controls, such as grazing,
335 for starthistle control this year as they believe it is the most practical
336 application to combat the problem. Herbicide use is not practical as the
337 park is home to several species of sensitive vegetation. Biological
338 control may thus be the best option to get the starthistle population down
339 to a manageable level.

340 Carnegie SVRA

341 Located in the coastal hills of western San Joaquin and eastern Alameda
342 counties, the topography of Carnegie SVRA is steep, with several
343 vegetation habitats represented including annual grassland, blue oak
344 woodland, coastal scrub, valley foothill riparian, and lacustrine (lake and
345 lake-like environments). The climate is Mediterranean, with cool, wet
346 winters and hot dry summers.

347 The park is divided into two areas that are defined by their use type.
348 These are the “open riding” area and the more restrictive “trails only”
349 area. Approximately half of the park, the north side, is “open-riding,”
350 which typically consists of areas that are grasslands with more durable
351 soils. The other half is the “trails only” area, which is within the more
352 sensitive habitats of the park (coastal scrub and oak woodland). These
353 designations were established in the park’s general plan (1980). Orange
354 carsonite markers installed in 2004 clearly delineate the boundary
355 between the two use areas, informing visitors when they cross from one
356 riding area to the other.

357 The park is home to the federally-threatened California red-legged frog
358 and California tiger salamander. Because of the presence of these listed
359 species and the need to clean out sediment ponds annually, several
360 permits are required. In 2005, the park successfully obtained the
361 authorizations from four state and federal agencies that were required to
362 complete the work.

363 During this same time period, the park also acquired an industrial storm-
364 water permit from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control
365 Board for the Tesla mining district. Per the requirements of this permit,
366 over the past few years the park began the process of installing
367 temporary erosion control measures aimed at improving the stormwater
368 runoff. The measures are evaluated and improved each year, a process
369 that will lead to more permanent solutions in the near future.

370 In 2004-2007, a watershed analysis was conducted of all the state
371 parcels owned within the Corral Hollow Creek watershed, a seasonal
372 drainage running along the northern park boundary. The watershed
373 analysis assessed the park’s water quality issues and identified possible
374 problem areas while proposing small- and large-scale solutions. This

375 comprehensive study has provided the background needed to plan future
376 improvement projects (e.g., road and trail maintenance and realignment
377 and restoration of Corral Hollow Creek) and has focused management
378 efforts on locating and improving specific issues within the park.

379 Hollister Hills SVRA

380 Located just an hour's drive from San Jose, Hollister Hills SVRA is
381 situated in the Gabilan Mountains at elevations from 660 feet to 2425
382 feet. Adobe and granitic soils are present, predominantly separated by
383 the San Andres fault that runs through the park. This park unit was
384 purchased with funds from the OHV Trust Fund in 1975. Prior to this time
385 it had been operated for OHVs under private management. Topography
386 on the property ranges from the foothills to mountain ridgeline.

387 Vegetation communities consist of annual grassland conifer forest, pine
388 woodland, riparian-oak woodland, high and low chaparral, neighbored by
389 agricultural areas. Common wildlife in the park include black-tailed deer,
390 feral pigs, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, ground squirrels, bats, red-
391 tailed hawks, western meadowlarks, wild turkeys, western fence lizards,
392 and gopher snakes.

393 Integrated adaptive resource management practices help address
394 concerns of nearby community members and landowners, such as noise
395 and fugitive dust levels. By taking advantage of the land's natural
396 contours, trails are designed to limit the effects of OHV sounds away
397 from neighboring properties. One benefit in the Adobe area is the high
398 clay content of the natural soils reduces airborne dust and promotes good
399 neighbor relations.

400 Hollister Hills SVRA seeks to foster partnerships and takes a
401 collaborative approach to address issues and develop methods that
402 sustain OHV recreation. In 2009, a new intern program was initiated that
403 enlisted several local and regional colleges. The interns have an
404 opportunity to work in a variety of program areas at the SVRA up to and
405 including: resource management, interpretation, maintenance and
406 operations; and public safety. Specifically this program has helped
407 increase resource awareness of the dynamic park programs at Hollister

408 Hills by reaching out beyond the traditional OHV community for ideas,
409 support, and education.

410 Invasive exotic plant control has been an ongoing effort, currently
411 targeting yellow star thistle, tree of heaven, tree tobacco, and French
412 broom. A primary goal is to deplete the seed banks and/or the root
413 system of the plants. Park staff will continue to partner with the San
414 Benito County Weed Management Area, as this relationship is proving
415 advantageous, and has also produced an educational brochure for park
416 visitors.

417 Habitat damage from feral pigs has become a big problem. Park staff is
418 working diligently to monitor, control, and maintain the population in the
419 park, and has just initiated a feral pig depredation program. This
420 management program will ensure that habitat for the California red-
421 legged frog and California tiger salamander will be protected from this
422 non-native wildlife species.

423 The park's proximity to urban areas and its high visibility require the
424 implementation of several management programs as part of daily
425 operations. They include non-motorized open space areas, which have
426 been established both in and around the park, continuous monitoring of
427 dust and sound levels that originate within the park, and a 10-year
428 grazing program, which primarily utilizes the buffer areas of the Renz
429 property. Approximately 1,300 acres are grazed. This multi-use program
430 provides fire suppression, weed management, and scientific data while
431 generating revenue that allows it to be self sustaining.

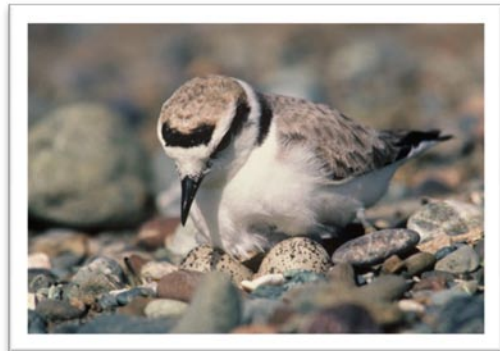
432 **Oceano Dunes SVRA**

433 Oceano Dunes SVRA lies at the north end of the Guadalupe-Nipomo
434 Dunes complex, a relatively intact coastal dune and dune scrub
435 ecosystem along the central coast. Habitats within the park include
436 coastal foredune, dune scrub, bare sand sheets, dune slack wetlands,
437 coastal estuary, riparian, and freshwater lakes. The SVRA provides
438 habitat for numerous special-status plant and animal species, including
439 valuable nesting habitat for state- and federally-listed endangered
440 California least terns and federally-listed threatened western snowy
441 plovers.

442 Of the 3,600 acres within the SVRA, approximately 2,100 acres are
443 managed as a resource area, some of which is open to non-motorized
444 recreation. Oso Flaco Lake and the associated habitats are one of the
445 park's best known and biologically important habitats. Numerous other
446 areas provide regionally important habitat, however, including the dune
447 system south of Oso Flaco Lake and the vegetation islands located within
448 the motorized recreation and camping area. Approximately 1,500 acres
449 are open to vehicles and camping. During the western snowy plover
450 nesting season, approximately 50 acres of nonmotorized recreation area
451 south of Oso Flaco Creek and approximately 250 acres of motorized
452 recreation area north of the creek are closed to all public access.

453 Oceano Dunes SVRA has been working on a Multi Species Habitat
454 Conservation Plan (HCP) to cover all park operations under the State and
455 Federal Endangered Species Acts. This HCP will outline specific
456 management and monitoring activities to address covered species.

457 Oceano Dunes SVRA Environmental
458 Scientists take an adaptive
459 management approach to the task of
460 managing habitats and species at the
461 park. For example, approximately
462 250 acres of riding and camping area
463 that are closed during the breeding
464 season for plover and tern nesting
465 and chick rearing become degraded



466 from OHV recreation during the winter months (October – February). To
467 mitigate the impacts to breeding habitat, park staff implements a number
468 of habitat enhancement activities designed to improve breeding and chick
469 rearing conditions for these species, such as providing large woody
470 debris to provide for topography and wind protection and spreading wood
471 chips to provide debris patches where the birds can successfully nest.
472 This enhancement program is reviewed and adjusted annually.

473 Staff is working to control the spread of invasive exotic weeds that
474 threaten to degrade or eliminate sensitive foredune and dune scrub
475 habitat. The two biggest threats to these ecosystems include European
476 beachgrass and veldt grass. Staff has been working with partner
477 agencies and adjacent public landowners to control large infestations of

478 invasive exotic species throughout the Guadalupe Nipomo Dune System.
479 The most significant effort to control invasive exotic species is
480 approximately 160 acres in the south Oso Flaco dunes. This large area
481 has been treated annually for two years to control the spread of European
482 beachgrass.

483 In 2007 and 2008, the California Geological Survey prepared a report on
484 options to perpetuate the habitat values of the vegetation islands within
485 Oceano Dunes SVRA. These recommendations will eventually be
486 incorporated into a long-term vegetation islands management plan.

487 **Hungry Valley SVRA**

488 Hungry Valley SVRA is located next to Interstate Highway 5 on the Tejon
489 Pass in the intersection of the Transverse, Tehachapi, and Coastal
490 ranges of Southern California. The park is bordered on the north by
491 Tejon Ranch, on the west by Los Padres National Forest, on the east by
492 the Department of Water Resources, and on the south by Angeles
493 National Forest. Hungry Valley contains four distinct physiographic units.
494 The first is Hungry Valley proper, a large valley in the western portion of
495 the park. The second is Freeman Canyon, a badland-type environment
496 (an area characterized by extensive natural erosion) in the middle of the
497 unit. The third is the Gorman Creek drainage along the north and east
498 sides of the park. The fourth is Canada de Los Alamos, a large,
499 relatively flat area in the southern portion of the park.

500 Vegetation within the park is diverse due to the convergence of several
501 California floristic regions. Major vegetation communities include
502 chaparral, pinon-juniper woodland, grassland, riparian, juniper-yucca
503 open woodland, oak
504 woodland, and shrubland.
505 The 60-acre Oak Woodland
506 Natural Preserve in the
507 northwest area of Hungry
508 Valley SVRA, which is closed
509 to motorized recreation,
510 protects a natural seep that
511 provides water for immense
512 valley oaks and native



513 grasses that cannot be found growing together anywhere else in
514 California. The Native Grasslands Management Area, comprising the
515 northern area of the SVRA, protects rare native grasslands by restricting
516 OHVs to designated trails.

517 This diverse habitat supports diverse wildlife and maintaining habitat for
518 special-status species (such as coast horned lizard) is always a priority.
519 Monitoring activities at Hungry Valley have identified 38 species of
520 mammals, 112 species of birds, 25 species of herpetiles, and 234
521 vegetative species.

522 The six exotic pest plants of greatest concern—yellow starthistle, giant
523 reed, pampas grass, Dalmatian toadflax, tree of heaven, and perennial
524 pepperweed—exist in limited areas at Hungry Valley SVRA. All six
525 species are within or along the edge of the Grassland Management Area,
526 which underscores the importance of controlling these plants.

527 Two invasive wildlife species have been found in the park, and only one—
528 the European starling—has made it to the habitat monitoring plots.
529 European starlings have been increasing in numbers at the north and
530 south ends of the park and into the Grassland Management Area.

531 The invasive, exotic weed program goal of the Hungry Valley Five Year
532 Resource Management Plan is complete elimination of these plants from
533 the SVRA. In fiscal year 2005-2006 extensive work began to limit the
534 spread of and treat these infestations. The work is ongoing, as control
535 and elimination of invasive plant is almost never achieved in one year.

536 **Ocotillo Wells and Heber Dunes SVRAs**

537 Ocotillo Wells SVRA is located in the Colorado Desert approximately 90
538 miles northeast of San Diego in both the Imperial and San Diego
539 Counties. The park manages approximately 85,000 acres of park land,
540 lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and private in-
541 holdings.

542 Habitats include mesquite, ironwood, desert willow, smoketree and Palo
543 Verde woodlands, four-winged saltbush scrub, Creosote-burro-bush
544 scrub, desert buckwheat, Ocotillo, brittle-bush scrub, Galleta grass-indigo

545 scrub, goldenbush, sunflower barrens, and woody aster badland wash
546 benches.

547 Ocotillo Wells SVRA receives approximately 1.2 million visitors per year.
548 Heber Dunes SVRA is much smaller unit; visitation is approximately
549 22,000 visitors per year, primarily coming from the local area. Both parks
550 offer a combination of open riding and trail opportunities. Camping is
551 allowed in the open riding area throughout Ocotillo Wells SVRA, while
552 Heber Dunes SVRA is day-use only. The general plan process, currently
553 underway, will address future open riding, camping, and designated trail
554 policies.

555 Monitoring of vertebrate elements of both units has yet to produce
556 analyzable results. The reptile survey has been revised to produce more
557 meaningful data, but the bird and mammal data will require many more
558 years to reach a statistically analyzable value.

559 The flat-tailed horned lizard, proposed for listing under the federal
560 Endangered Species Act, occurs in various habitats throughout Ocotillo
561 Wells SVRA. The Ocotillo Wells District has been funding studies since
562 1991 to determine the species' population, density, hibernation factors,
563 and life history. Much new
564 information has come from these
565 annual studies. In the last three
566 seasons a valuable and useful
567 protocol for flat-tailed horned
568 lizard monitoring has been
569 implemented. While a
570 comprehensive statistical analysis
571 is still several years away,
572 environmental scientists are
573 confident this system will provide
574 meaningful data on the relative condition of the population of this
575 species. In June 1997 the California Department of Parks and Recreation
576 signed a Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Strategy Plan that
577 established Ocotillo Wells SVRA as a Research Area for the species.
578 This Strategy Plan is an Arizona-California Conservation Agreement. As
579 signatories of this plan, Ocotillo Wells District funds annual studies to
580 monitor and gain more information about the species.



581 One resource concern at both district units is invasive exotic plants. The
582 three plants of greatest concern at Ocotillo Wells SVRA are tamarisk,
583 Russian thistle (“tumbleweed”), and Sahara mustard. At Heber Dunes
584 SVRA, the primary species of concern is the invasive saltcedar species of
585 tamarisk. The noxious weed program goal is complete elimination of the
586 invasive tamarisk species. Tamarisk is a frequent and invasive large
587 shrub to small tree in major washes and numerous tributaries in Ocotillo
588 Wells SVRA and along the boundaries of Heber Dunes SVRA. Since 1988
589 the Ocotillo Wells District has been reducing the tamarisk population in
590 the unit through cutting, spraying, and removal. Future plans are to
591 continue with the removal of tamarisk throughout the unit depending on
592 funding. Yearly inspections for re-sprouts are done at past removal
593 locations.

594 Lack of annual plant production and general plant recruitment has been
595 noted in all areas sampled. For some sampled habitats, this has meant
596 substantial loss of vegetation, soil, and general habitat integrity. For the
597 mesquite dune habitat at Barrel Springs in Ocotillo Wells SVRA, which
598 has been closed to public access, substantial improvement has been
599 documented in annual plant production and perennial plant recruitment.
600 This area has been used as a restoration model for this habitat
601 throughout the park where it occurs.

602 At Ocotillo Wells SVRA, a recently established trails management team,
603 part of an effort to improve trails maintenance, has been assembled to
604 begin the designation process in collaboration with the environmental
605 review team. A trails designation and enclosure plan has been proposed
606 for a portion of Heber Dunes SVRA as part of the park’s general plan
607 which is currently under development.

608 Brochures for the flat-tailed horned lizard, guides to wildflowers and
609 reptile species, park newsletter, as well as interpretive events at various
610 locations and times with varied themes, have all been implemented in all
611 areas of park management, primarily at Ocotillo Wells SVRA. To analyze
612 the effectiveness of the education program in protecting park resources,
613 continued monitoring is taking place at various locations within Ocotillo
614 Wells SVRA. The placement of information signs at restoration sites and
615 enclosures is now standard practice.

616 **Federal Natural Resource Management**

617 *Changes to OHMVR Program Benefiting Natural and Cultural*
618 *Resource Management*

619 As California's population continues to grow, and the number of people
620 choosing to recreate on OHVs increases accordingly, recent changes to
621 the OHMVR Program have increased the Program's effectiveness in
622 meeting this demand and the legislative mandate for resource protection.

623 Additional funding was made available by the enactment of SB 742 which
624 among many other changes, increased OHV registration fees from \$25 to
625 \$50 for a two-year registration which provides a greater level of program
626 support. Since 2004, funding available for the Grants and Cooperative
627 Agreements Program has increased from \$18 million to \$27.1 million.
628 This increase allows for a far greater level of resource protection through
629 preventive maintenance and conservation activities on trails and areas
630 used by OHVs, improved levels of enforcement to prevent trespass and
631 operation of OHVs in closed areas, and increased restoration efforts on
632 lands damaged by OHV recreation activities.

633 *Changes to Grant Regulations*

634 Over the past four years, numerous changes have been made to the
635 regulations which govern the Grants Program to promote and encourage
636 agencies that manage lands and provide opportunities for OHV recreation
637 to adopt an holistic approach to land management practices and maintain
638 the natural resources in good condition.

639 The grant application and scoring process now looks at both project
640 specific information and general information about the applicant's overall
641 program. Applicants with fully developed programs that include education
642 on responsible OHV recreation, sustainable land management practices
643 and enforcement efforts, are given additional consideration and are more
644 likely to be awarded funding.

645 This approach encourages program managers to address all aspects of
646 managing OHV recreation. Funding specific projects has a direct impact
647 on the lands or activities which are funded. Rewarding applicants for

648 conducting holistic programs provides positive indirect impacts to areas
649 and activities not directly funded by the program.

650 **New Soil Standard:** In order to provide for and ensure that soil
651 conservation activities are being performed effectively in areas affected
652 by OHV activities, the 1991 Soil Conservation Guidelines and Standards
653 required updating (PRC 5090.35 (b)(1)). The OHMVR Division brought
654 together a number of other agencies to assist in developing a new soil
655 standard, including: The California Department of Conservation, the
656 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the BLM, the U.S.
657 Forest Service (USFS), the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation
658 Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Through public workshops,
659 input was also obtained from representatives of other governmental
660 organizations, OHV recreation groups, OHV industry consultants, and
661 environmental communities.

662 These efforts produced the “2008 Soil Conservation Standard and
663 Guidelines” (Soil Conservation Standard). The Soil Conservation
664 Standard was incorporated into the 2009-2010 OHV Grant Regulations,
665 and approved by the Office of Administrative Law. Under the 2009-2010
666 OHV Grant Regulations, grantees must develop a Soil Conservation Plan,
667 which details soil monitoring and conservation practices for any projects
668 which involve ground disturbing activities.

669 The new standard and guidelines is also being implemented in the SVRAs
670 managed by the Division.

671 To ensure soil conservation issues are being appropriately addressed,
672 and that the Soil Conservation Standard is being correctly implemented,
673 the Division has contracted with the California Geological Survey to train
674 staff from the Division and grantee agencies, and to provide
675 recommendations and prescriptive solutions for trail maintenance and
676 repair activities to prevent soil loss.

677 **Addition of Grant and Audit Staff**

678 The increase in grant funding, from \$18 million in 2007 to \$27.1 million in
679 2008, has resulted in a greater number of funded projects. Additional

680 grant administrators and auditors have been hired to cover the increased
681 workload associated with this increase.

682 Grant administrators review project proposals and score applications.
683 During this review, environmental staff ensures that Wildlife Habitat
684 Protection Plans and compliance with the Soil Standard and Guidelines
685 are included in projects as required by statute.

686 Once projects are approved for funding, the grant administrators perform
687 desk reviews and site visits to monitor progress. Grant administrators
688 verify projects are being completed in compliance with regulations, and
689 that project deliverables are fully achieved, including the requirements for
690 protection of natural and cultural resources.

691 A minimum of 20% of completed projects are selected for additional
692 review and auditing. Audits consist of both financial reviews, to ensure
693 funds were spent and accounted for appropriately, and a performance
694 review to verify that all project goals were achieved. If irregularities are
695 discovered, grantees are required to correct any deficiencies or, as a last
696 resort, to pay back the OHV Trust Fund.

697 **Habitat Management Program**

698 USFS and BLM grantees with projects involving ground disturbing
699 activities must implement a Wildlife Habitat Protection Program (WHPP),
700 known as a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) under the Grants Program.
701 The HMP requires grantees to identify special-status plant and animal
702 species that could be at risk from OHV recreation and monitor for
703 potential impacts to those species. As an adaptive management plan, the
704 HMP includes management objectives and actions to address the risk,
705 success criteria to gauge the effectiveness of each management action,
706 and “triggers” for management change. Each grant application cycle,
707 grantees report on the results of the previous year’s HMP, including any
708 management actions taken based on monitoring results. The Division
709 developed the WHPP/HMP over several years of working with BLM and
710 USFS environmental staff. The forms, which were largely finalized in
711 2005, are incorporated into the Grants Program regulations.

712 In addition projects with ground disturbing activities must implement
713 activities outlined in the 2008 Soil Standard and Guidelines in projects
714 supported by grant funding. The Soil Standard and Guidelines were
715 incorporated into the regulations governing the 2009-2010 grant cycle.

716 U.S. Forest Service Natural Resource Conditions

717 Within California, USFS Region 5 includes all or part of 19 national
718 forests, and each of these forests has received Grants Program funding
719 during the 2004-2009 period. The natural resources within these 19
720 national forests are unique. Of the more than 8,000 vascular plant
721 species occurring in California, well over half are known to occur on
722 national forest lands. This pattern is due to topography, geography,
723 geology and soils, climate, and vegetation-the same factors that account
724 for the exceptionally high occurrence of endemic (i.e., found nowhere
725 else) flora in California. Over 100 plant species are endemic to national
726 forest lands. National forests supply 50% of California's water, forming
727 the watershed of most major aqueducts and more than 2,400 reservoirs
728 throughout the state. More than 600 of the 800 species of fish and
729 wildlife in California inhabit the national forests, making the USFS the
730 single largest habitat manager in the state. Although California's
731 19 national forests are characterized by unique and diverse habitats, they
732 are often categorized into three large geographic areas: the
733 Northern/Klamath Province, Southern California, and the Sierra Nevada.

734 **Northern/Klamath Province:** Habitats on the four Northern/Klamath
735 Province forests (Six Rivers, Klamath, Shasta-Trinity, and Mendocino
736 National Forests) are broadly represented by the following tree types:
737 ponderosa pine, eastside mixed conifer, westside mixed conifer, Douglas-
738 fir, lodgepole pine, eastside true fir, westside true fir, and hardwoods. In
739 addition, the non-forested areas share the following vegetation and
740 habitat characteristics: western juniper/big sagebrush/bluebunch
741 wheatgrass, riparian woodlands, oak woodlands and savannah, scrub oak
742 mixed chaparral, ceanothus mixed chaparral, montane shrubland,
743 bitterbrush, montane meadows, alpine grassland, perennial grass glades,
744 wet meadows, wetlands, and aquatic systems (lakes, streams, ponds, and
745 springs). Riparian communities occur around streams, lakes, ponds, wet
746 meadows, springs, and wetlands throughout the area. Terrestrial habitats
747 tend to be the driest in the southern and eastern portions of this area.

748 **Sierra Nevada:** Habitats on the eleven Sierra Nevada Forests (Modoc,
749 Lassen, Plumas, Tahoe, Humboldt-Toiyabe, El Dorado, Stanislaus,
750 Sierra, Inyo, and Sequoia National Forests and the Lake Tahoe Basin
751 Management Unit) vary greatly across the range. Ecosystems present
752 themselves in the landscape as a patchwork of forests, shrublands, rock
753 outcrops, aquatic features (lakes, rivers, and reservoirs), wet and dry
754 meadows, and other vegetation types that form complex mosaics. In the
755 broadest context, vegetation alliances in the Sierra Nevada are both
756 elevation and latitude sensitive and are distinctly different at the lower
757 elevations between the east and west sides of the Sierra Nevada crest.
758 Yellow pine (ponderosa and Jeffery pines), lodgepole-red fir, and
759 subalpine forests are represented on both sides of the divide, and on
760 most national forests south of the Modoc, although the yellow pine belts
761 on the east and west slope are distinctly different. Alpine vegetation
762 alliances are found where elevations exceed 11,000 to 12,000 feet. On
763 the west side, the lower elevation alliances include chaparral, and foothill
764 woodlands (including mixed evergreen forests) are mixed with valley
765 grasslands at the lowest points. On the east side, the lowest elevation is
766 occupied by sagebrush scrub with pinyon-juniper woodlands found
767 between the sagebrush and yellow pines. There are virtually no oak
768 woodlands on the east side. Streams and associated riparian vegetation
769 occur throughout the area, and wet meadows occur primarily on the
770 eastern slope.

771 **Southern California:** The complex interaction of climate, geology, and
772 topography has created an unusually rich array of vegetation types on the
773 four Southern California national forests (Los Padres, Angeles, San
774 Bernardino, and Cleveland National Forests) that range from dry desert
775 scrub to humid coastal redwood forests. Specific habitats of importance
776 include alpine/subalpine, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, desert mountain,
777 desert scrub, Gabbro outcrops, lakes and reservoirs, limestone/carbonate
778 outcrops, lower montane forest, montane conifer forest, montane
779 meadows, Monterey coastal, oak woodland/savanna/grassland, pebble
780 plain, riparian, serpentine outcrops, and vernal pools.

781 **Bureau of Land Management Natural Resource Conditions**

782 To ensure natural resources are maintained in good condition, the BLM is
783 actively managing OHV recreation. Of particular concern is maintaining

784 and protecting populations of sensitive desert reptiles. The Division has
785 awarded the BLM a grant to study the effectiveness of current
786 management practices allowing OHV activities in some of the desert
787 washes within Desert Wildlife Management Area of Critical Environmental
788 Concerns (ACEC) in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

789 The BLM is also ensuring natural resources are maintained in good
790 condition by controlling invasive exotic plants. The BLM Barstow and
791 Hollister Field Offices have been especially active in removing noxious
792 invasive weeds. In Afton Canyon ACEC, a popular recreation destination
793 east of Barstow, BLM staff has been vigilant in its efforts to control the
794 spread of tamarisk to allow and promote the growth of native willows and
795 mesquite in the canyon riparian woodland. In southern San Benito
796 County, the BLM has been undertaking prescribed burns to promote
797 growth of rare native plants and halt the spread of yellow starthistle into
798 OHV recreation areas.

799 Keeping trails repaired and in good condition by reducing soil erosion,
800 and developing staff expertise for rapid response to erosion problems
801 caused in connection with OHV trails, is a major goal for BLM OHV
802 recreation programs. The BLM is partnering with the Division and the
803 USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service to train BLM staff in new
804 improved methods in erosion control for OHV and in monitoring and
805 diagnosing potential erosion problems in advance, allowing staff to act
806 early to avoid erosion.

807 **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

808 **SVRA Cultural Resource Management**

809 The lands owned and managed by the Division contain valuable cultural
810 resources that provide insight into California's prehistory and history. A
811 wide range of state laws and regulations govern cultural resource
812 protection and preservation of resources within the SVRAs (including
813 archeological and historical) for current and future generations.

814 **Cultural Resource Inventories and Monitoring**

815 Cultural resources are inventoried and protected through Cultural
816 Resource Inventory Reports prepared by Division Associate State
817 Archaeologists. These reports include pre-field research, the results of
818 the fieldwork, site records, detailed maps, and evaluations of the cultural
819 resources eligible for either the National Register of Historic Places or
820 the California Register of Historical Resources.

821 Having an up-to-date cultural resource inventory of an SVRA allows the
822 cultural resource specialist to identify areas of the park that contain or
823 may contain resources that will require protection or mitigation because
824 of a Division project. To be consistent with best management practices, a
825 Cultural Resource Inventory Report should be no more than five years
826 old. In recognition of the growing need to identify and protect cultural
827 resources in the SVRAs, and as a result of increased funding per SB 742,
828 the Division currently has two State Archeologists who in 2008 proposed
829 and are moving forward with updating the Cultural Resource Inventories
830 for each of the SVRAs.

831 Data collected during a cultural resource inventory help determine which
832 resources in the SVRA require annual monitoring for adequate
833 preservation and management. Archaeological monitoring is an important
834 component of the Division's ongoing efforts to ensure or verify the
835 avoidance of effects on known cultural resources.

836 Division Archeologists and Division staff also partner with volunteers
837 from the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP) to
838 perform additional cultural resource monitoring. CASSP is utilized by a
839 multitude of state and federal agencies to involve members of the public
840 to help monitor, preserve, and manage archaeological sites throughout
841 California. CASSP volunteers require training and guidance from the
842 District or Division Cultural Specialist to adequately monitor cultural
843 resources. Carnegie and Ocotillo Wells SVRAs hosted CASSP training in
844 2009. Training is proposed for Hollister Hills and Oceano Dunes in 2010
845 and for Hungry Valley in 2012.

846 **Cultural Resources Management on Federal Lands Receiving Grant**
847 **Program Funding**

848 When Grant applicants request funding for ground disturbing activities,
849 potential impacts to cultural resources must be considered. Federal
850 agencies are responsible for identifying and protecting cultural resources
851 and avoiding unnecessary damage to them. The National Historic
852 Preservation Act (NHPA) provides comprehensive direction to federal
853 agencies about their historic preservation responsibilities, and compels
854 federal agencies to consider the effect of their undertakings on any
855 district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in, or eligible
856 for, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Executive Order
857 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment, also
858 includes direction about the identification and consideration of historic
859 properties in federal land management decisions. Several other federal
860 laws direct federal agency protection and management of cultural
861 resources, including resources that are of state or local significance.

862 The USFS and the BLM work under a Memorandum of Understanding with
863 the California State Historic Preservation Officer to protect cultural
864 resources and sites across public lands.

865 Specific to the USFS, the 2005 Travel Management Rule also requires
866 that the effects on cultural resources be considered, with the objective of
867 minimizing damage, when designating roads, trails, and areas for motor
868 vehicle use on National Forest System lands.

869 The Grants Program provides important funding for federal agencies to
870 implement cultural resource management and protection projects.

871 There are challenges inherent in managing use in designated OHV areas
872 where cultural resources are also present. Maintaining cultural resources
873 can best be accomplished by first locating and inventorying cultural sites,
874 and then implementing specific protection measures. Effective measures
875 to reduce the risk of adverse effects to cultural resources, including
876 annual monitoring have been developed to help ensure the resources
877 remain protected. Long-term monitoring and active management of
878 popular OHV areas is needed to ensure protection measures continue to
879 be effective.

880 Condition of Cultural Resources on USFS Lands

881 Many designated OHV areas on USFS lands have had cultural resource
882 surveys (e.g., Cleveland and Angeles National Forests). The recorded
883 cultural resource sites within these designated OHV areas and trails are
884 monitored on an annual basis to ensure that any protection measures
885 continue to be effective. Although few national forests in California have
886 completed entire cultural resource inventories of all motorized recreation
887 trails, the Mendocino National Forest has completely inventoried its
888 designated OHV system of trails.

889 When inadvertent effects to cultural sites are noted, or sites are affected
890 by encroachment off designated system trails, new protection measures
891 are implemented. Region 5 has used regional programmatic agreements
892 for NHPA Section 106 compliance to help manage OHV system uses and
893 provide needed protection to cultural resource sites.

894 Several forests in Region 5 have effectively implemented site protection
895 measures since 2004. For example, more than nine miles of barriers and
896 fences have been used in the Corral Canyon OHV area on the Cleveland
897 National Forest since 2004 to confine OHV use to authorized roads and
898 trails and to protect numerous prehistoric archaeological sites in the
899 area. The overall condition of cultural resource sites in the Coral Canyon
900 OHV area ranges from fair to excellent.

901 In 2006, Region 5 entered into a separate programmatic agreement with
902 the California State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory
903 Council on Historic Preservation regarding NHPA Section 106 compliance
904 for motorized recreation projects. This agreement includes a variety of
905 management measures that can be implemented to protect cultural
906 resource sites from the effects of OHV use (e.g., barriers, reroutes,
907 fencing, signs, and closures). Long-term monitoring on the Mendocino
908 National Forest, for example, indicates that most cultural resource sites
909 are in fair to excellent condition and are rarely affected by OHV uses.

910 Past protection efforts in the Rowher Flat OHV Area have concentrated
911 on placing fencing and pipe-cable barriers to exclude traffic and protect
912 significant cultural resource sites. Monitoring in 2007 involved inspection
913 of 12 archaeological sites considered potentially susceptible to effects
914 from OHV-related activities. This monitoring revealed that a number of

915 archaeological sites were being impacted, primarily from OHV intrusion
916 into archaeological sites by circumventing fenced areas, causing soil
917 disturbance and displacement and breakage of cultural materials. A
918 wildfire that burned through the OHV areas in 2007 caused increased
919 risks to cultural resources resulting from the burning of all barrier
920 vegetation within Rowher Flat and damaged or fallen fencing at several
921 places in both Rowher and Drinkwater flats. Monitoring at 54 cultural
922 resource sites in 2008 showed several archaeological sites, particularly
923 within the Rowher Flat OHV Area, continued to be at-risk from OHV
924 access through the sites. Based upon this monitoring, additional
925 protective measures similar to those implemented in the past were
926 recommended to protect cultural resources, including placement of sturdy
927 cable barriers and fences to prevent further trespass and replacement of
928 damaged barriers and fencing. Directive or prohibitive signage was also
929 suggested as a means to inform the OHV-using public.

930 **Condition of Cultural Resources on BLM Lands**

931 From the start of the 2004 OHV Grant year, through the end of the grants
932 issued in 2009, BLM received almost \$527,000 in grants for management
933 of cultural resources. A majority of the cultural resource funding provided
934 during this period (\$324,000) has been utilized by the Archeological Site
935 Stewardship Program. Similar to the CASSP, this statewide program is a
936 partnership between BLM, USFS, California State Parks, and the Society
937 for California Archeology to train and utilize volunteer site stewards.
938 These volunteers adopt specific cultural resource sites and work with
939 agency archeologists to monitor and stabilize these sites.

940 An additional \$202,000 has been used to fund specific cultural resource
941 surveys in Ridgecrest and throughout the California Desert District. An
942 example of a grant funded project to manage cultural resources is a
943 project at the Olancho Dunes OHV Open Area, within the BLM Ridgecrest
944 Field Office. The grant was to conduct sample inventory of cultural
945 artifacts and conduct an ethnographic study of Native American use of
946 the area involving Paiute and Shoshone people.

947 **Resolution of Use Conflict**

948 The population of California has nearly doubled since the OHMVR
949 Program was created in 1971. Today, many in the OHV community, as
950 they have done for decades, head to rural areas in search of OHV
951 recreational opportunities. However, in recent years the population in
952 rural areas has increased as people relocate from urban communities in
953 search of peace and quiet. At the same time, areas traditionally available
954 for OHV recreation have been shrinking. This increase in demand,
955 coupled with the loss of available land for OHV recreation, has created a
956 situation where competition for resources leads to land use conflicts. The
957 clash between OHV enthusiasts and those who oppose OHV recreation
958 near their homes and communities varies from small disagreements to
959 outright hostility, and in a relatively small number of extreme cases,
960 violence.

961 The conversion of lands previously available for OHV recreation has
962 exacerbated the tensions between individuals. Lands which once were
963 open to OHV use are now closed. Lands which were never open but were
964 not fenced or signed by land owners are now clearly marked. In-holdings
965 once available for OHV recreation are now being developed for other
966 uses. In some instances communities of interest are working together to
967 solve these conflicts. However, in other areas the tensions continue to
968 mount, leading to damage to private property, hostile attitudes and
969 sometimes violence between individuals. Local law enforcement cannot
970 always respond quickly enough due to competing priorities.

971 Additionally, on federal public lands, as the BLM and USFS implement
972 designated route decisions, private property owners sign and fence their
973 lands, and lands once open to OHV use are closed, the OHV community
974 will continue to be displaced resulting in further conflicts between OHV
975 activities and demand and other land uses. The development of additional
976 managed areas must keep pace to off-set these losses so as to reduce
977 conflicts among people and landscapes; but, this will take time. In the
978 meantime resources are being dedicated to address these issues.

979 To meet these challenges, the Commission and Division have taken an
980 active role to reduce land use conflicts. Efforts range from general
981 education and outreach, to specific conflict resolution between

982 communities of interest, and focused enforcement efforts. All too often,
983 there seems to be a lack of knowledge and understanding about where
984 and when motorized use is allowed on public lands. In recent years, the
985 Division has reached out in a variety of ways to:

- 986 ✓ Provide information on the Division website about OHV Laws and a
987 Frequently Asked Questions page specific to OHV use
- 988 ✓ Create a process where members of the public can direct
989 comments and questions directly to the Division
990 (ohvinfo@parks.ca.gov) or to the Commission
991 (OHVcommission@parks.ca.gov) regarding OHV recreation, and
992 receive responses from Division and Commission staff
- 993 ✓ Develop an OHV quick reference handbook for law enforcement
994 officers statewide
- 995 ✓ Work with local, state and federal law enforcement organizations
996 on education and enforcement efforts
- 997 ✓ Increase presence and participation at community outreach events
998 to educate the public about the OHMVR Program and to learn their
999 concerns
- 1000 ✓ Educate private property owners on steps to take to reduce illegal
1001 OHV use on their lands
- 1002 ✓ Provide funding for conflict resolution facilitation efforts throughout
1003 the state
- 1004 ✓ Provide technical assistance to local counties considering
1005 ordinances related to recreational OHV use
- 1006 ✓ Outreach to interested communities about the OHMVR Program and
1007 funding available for projects in their area

1008 In concert with the OHMVR mission to provide statewide leadership, there
1009 are several instances where the Division has facilitated outreach efforts
1010 to address issues of land use conflict. The Division will continue to work
1011 with communities and organizations who are interested in conflict
1012 resolution and consensus building. It will also continue to work with local,
1013 state and federal law enforcement. At the foundation of these efforts is
1014 the belief that citizens care deeply about their public lands, and although
1015 it may be difficult at times, they also welcome the opportunity to engage

1016 one another productively and safely, to learn the concerns of other
1017 communities of interest, and to have others hear and appreciate their own
1018 concerns. A few examples of the Division efforts include:

HOPE VALLEY

Hope Valley, located in the Sierra just south of Lake Tahoe, is an area surrounded by high peaks, beautiful meadows and stunning vistas. Those who live in the area and those who visit Hope Valley are passionate about the land and how it is managed. With various ideologies and viewpoints, getting a disparate group of people to agree on an approach to winter travel and use in Hope Valley seemed virtually impossible. The Division believed it was essential to get people together to initiate a dialogue to see if consensus on the issues could be achieved. Given the groups’ shared passion for Hope Valley, the Division believed there was strong potential for finding common ground and agreement. The Division reached out to the Center for Collaborative Policy for assistance.

Representatives from the USFS, Alpine County, local friends groups, and various motorized and non-motorized groups came together to discuss issues regarding appropriate access to public lands. Cross-country skiers wanted to ski without the sound and smell of snowmobiles. Snowmobilers wanted access to closed lands outside of wilderness areas. Over time, initial disagreement and polarization was replaced by understanding and agreement. At the end of the process, a set of recommendations, and a series of steps to address use conflicts was presented to the USFS for incorporation into the winter management plan.

1019

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

In 2008, local stakeholders were in conflict regarding decisions under consideration which would affect the USFS Travel Management Process in the Inyo National Forest. The Division requested the services of the Center for Collaborative Policy to facilitate a local stakeholder discussion working through the difficult issues.

With over 5,000 individually numbered routes making up a network of over 3,700 miles of route, arriving at a sustainable and manageable system of roads, trails and areas for motorized use across lands managed by the Inyo National Forest presented a significant challenge. A broad group of local stakeholders were brought together in March. Participants were promised that, if they were able to agree on an alternative, the Forest Service would give it serious consideration through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The "Travel Management Collaborative Alternative Team" (CAT) met intensively over a two month period to determine if there were mutually acceptable options for trail routes on the Inyo National Forest that would provide for safe and environmentally responsible use. With professional facilitation provided by the Center for Collaborative Policy (made possible through a contract with the Division), the CAT was successful in their effort. A slightly revised version of their proposal was implemented by the Inyo National Forest and the decision was not appealed by any of the involved parties. One of the participants noted that the CAT was successful because they agreed that "it's not about winning or losing, but about the need to create a system that protects land and satisfies everyone's needs." Another participant observed this experience demonstrates that when stakeholders are brought together, they are likely to be successful.



WONDER VALLEY

In December 2008, the Commission and Division received letters and emails from a number of residents of Wonder Valley, located in unincorporated San Bernardino County, describing OHV conflicts and private property trespass. The area is a desert landscape with a system of dirt roads. Most private property is not fenced or signed. The authorized BLM OHV routes are generally not signed.

Throughout 2009, the Division Public Safety Team met with local residents, representatives from BLM, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, County Code enforcement, and California Highway Patrol (CHP) in an effort to improve communication and initiate collaboration amongst the local residents as well as law enforcement agencies. On several occasions, State Park Rangers from the Division assisted by providing public safety coverage and patrol.

Irrespective of whether local residents are OHV enthusiasts or opposed to OHV recreation, all parties have expressed appreciation for the Division's efforts to help educate residents and visitors about appropriate OHV use, and their efforts to reduce conflict in the area.

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL



In the spring of 2010, the Division Public Safety Team was contacted by a number of individuals and agencies with concerns about reported trespass by dirt bikes along the Pacific Crest Trail, in and around the Tehachapi Mountains.

The Division contacted the BLM, USFS and Kern County regarding these reports and offered its assistance to address the situation. Subsequent site visits by State Park Rangers revealed that trespass into closed areas, as well as on private property, was occurring. Over the following weeks the agencies coordinated their efforts, meeting with one another as well as with local community groups, to help facilitate education and law enforcement.

Law enforcement's efforts were highlighted over the Easter holiday, when law enforcement personnel from the Kern County Sheriff's Office, California State Parks, USFS, and the BLM conducted a joint law enforcement effort targeting illegal OHV activity on the Pacific Crest Trail and on private property. Their efforts were successful as they resulted in the capture of three riders along the Pacific Crest Trail. Additional combined efforts are planned for the area.

FOLSOM LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA

In 2009 a horse was severely injured, and had to be destroyed after being spooked by dirt bikes operating illegally at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. The incident shocked the motorized and non-motorized communities alike. Working under the facilitation of Americans for Responsible Recreational Access, a group came together and worked cooperatively to develop a strategy to improve relationships and improve trail-sharing techniques between equestrian, OHV, mountain biking, and hiking groups on a local, state and national level. The Division was an active participant in suggesting corrective actions, educational efforts, and other activities to direct OHV recreation to appropriate areas. The commitment of the group to this project was unwavering. In a short period of time, the groups produced: *Sharing Our Trails – A Guide to Trail Etiquette*. The guide represents the efforts of a broad range of trail enthusiasts working together to develop an understanding and respect of each other's needs, and a guide that specifically tells trail enthusiasts what steps to take when they meet on the trail to minimize use conflict, increase safety, and enhance enjoyment of our public recreation opportunities.



1022

1023 **REPORT REQUIREMENT 3:**

1024 *The status and accomplishments of funds appropriated for*
1025 *restoration pursuant to paragraph (s) of subdivision (b) of*
1026 *Section 5090.50.*

1027 From the start of the OHMVR Program, the Legislature has recognized
1028 the importance of the partnerships that are shared by the Division
1029 statewide. Financial assistance for these entities is provided for in PRC
1030 Section 5090.50 Grants and Cooperative Agreements.

1031 This importance is specifically stated in statute:

1032 *Off-highway motor vehicle recreation should be managed in*
1033 *accordance with this chapter through financial assistance to*
1034 *local governments and joint undertakings with agencies of*
1035 *the United States and with federally recognized Native*
1036 *American tribes.*

1037 Since 1971 when the first grant was awarded, the financial assistance
1038 program is an important component of the statewide OHMVR Program.

1039 Since the 2004-2005 fiscal year, approximately \$28,000,000 of OHV Trust
1040 Funds have been awarded to eligible entities to fund restoration activities
1041 throughout the State of California. In the 2009-2010 fiscal year, pursuant
1042 to the legislative changes discussed below, \$7.6 million is available with
1043 approximately \$8 million in applications that are designed to provide
1044 approximately 2,872 miles and/or 1,549,000 acres of restored habitat.

1045 Between 2004 and 2009, in California the USFS received \$9,256,248 in
1046 Grants Program restoration funding to address habitat fragmentation or
1047 degradation, hill climbs, and illegal use in meadows and other sensitive
1048 areas.

1049 **Legislative Changes**

1050 SB 742, which went into effect in 2008, changed the language in PRC
1051 Section 5090.50 (b)(2)(A) to provide for:

- 1052 ▪ Consistent funding: In past years, the amount of grant funding
1053 directed to restoration efforts was set by the Commission each
1054 year. In order to stabilize funding levels and ensure sufficient
1055 funding was directed to restoration activities in the future, SB 742
1056 establishes that 25% of funds appropriated by the Legislature for
1057 the Grants Program are allocated for restoration projects.
- 1058 ▪ Appropriate Use of Restoration Funds: SB 742 specifies that
1059 restoration funds are to be used for projects that provide ecological
1060 restoration or repair to habitat damaged by legal or illegal OHV
1061 use.

1062 **Loan of Previously Dedicated Restoration Funds to California's**
1063 **General Fund**

1064 When SB 742 was enacted, it included changes to the Conservation and
1065 Enforcement Services Account (CESA) described in Revenue and
1066 Taxation Code (RTC) Section 8352.8 which had previously dedicated a
1067 percentage of fuel tax revenues to restoration. As a result of the
1068 changes, no new funds are deposited into the CESA. The funds remaining
1069 in the CESA are to be spent as directed by the section until they are
1070 depleted. RTC Section 8352.8 (b)(2) states that up to \$1.1 million of the
1071 remaining funds may be made available in each grant funding cycle to
1072 increase the amount of funding available for restoration grants.

1073 However, the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 state budget acts borrowed a
1074 total of \$112 million from the OHV Trust Fund, which included the
1075 remaining CESA funds. The ability to increase the level of funding to
1076 future restoration grants above the 25% level identified in
1077 Section 5090.50 (b)(2)(A) will be dependent on these funds being repaid
1078 to the OHV Trust Fund.

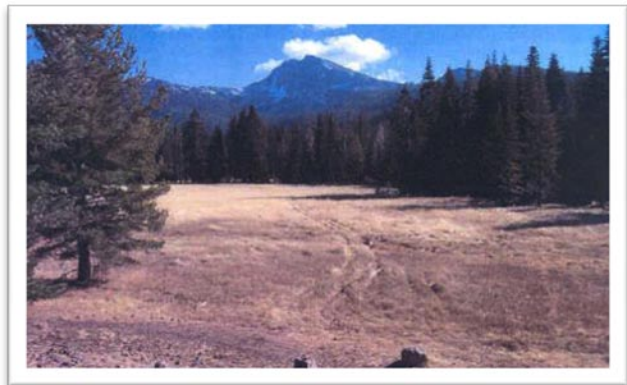
1079 **Restoration Achievements**

1080 Through financial assistance to federal agencies for restoration project
1081 cooperative agreements, the USFS and the BLM have achieved
1082 significant results in repairing and restoring lands that have been
1083 impacted by OHV recreation activities.

1084 *U.S Forest Service*

1085 Improving and restoring the health of its watersheds and ecosystems is a
1086 national priority for the USFS, which typically implements two types of
1087 restoration: passive and active. Passive restoration methods can include
1088 blocking routes, such as with boulders, or vertical mulching, where native
1089 plant materials are placed throughout the route to 'disguise' it and allow
1090 natural re-vegetation. In active restoration projects, ground-disturbing
1091 activities such as 'ripping' or scarifying the ground make the route
1092 impassible. Culverts and other engineered structures are removed and in
1093 some instances, seeding and planting strategies combined with noxious
1094 weed abatement activities are implemented.

1095 Between 2004 and 2009, in California the USFS received \$9,256,248 in
1096 Grants Program restoration funding to address habitat fragmentation or
1097 degradation, hill climbs, and
1098 illegal use in meadows and other
1099 sensitive areas. During this time,
1100 most of the nineteen national
1101 forests in California had at least
1102 one major restoration project, and
1103 several forests had multiple
1104 projects. In many cases, the
1105 forests leveraged OHV Trust
1106 Fund dollars with watershed
1107 funding resulting in tangible results on the ground, and promoting land
1108 stewardship and volunteerism on the forests.



1109 Most of the restoration projects
1110 have been in the Six Rivers,
1111 Mendocino, Plumas, Tahoe,
1112 Sierra, Inyo, Sequoia, Los
1113 Padres, Angeles, San
1114 Bernardino, and Cleveland
1115 National Forests. The typical
1116 projects included hill climb and
1117 illegal route removal, slope and
1118 stream bank stabilization, slope
1119 recontouring, meadow



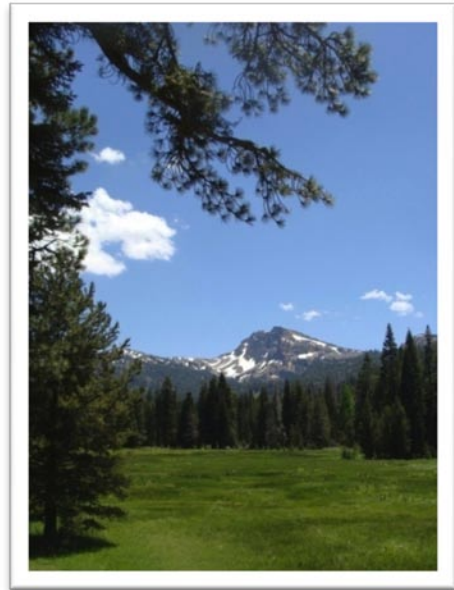
1120 restoration, fencing, barriers, native plant
1121 revegetation, and boulder placement.
1122 Monitoring is a key component of
1123 restoration projects and is typically
1124 accomplished through the resource and
1125 recreation (OHV) programs. Field
1126 specialists are frequently onsite for the
1127 implementation of restoration projects to
1128 ensure project success and support any
1129 necessary project mitigations.

1130 Monitoring has multiple aspects in
1131 restoration projects, and monitoring visits
1132 have provided quality baseline data for
1133 future implementation of projects. The
1134 USFS focuses on the “Three E’s”
1135 methodology (Education, Engineering,
1136 and Enforcement) for managing OHV
1137 recreation and assuring the success of
1138 restoration projects.

1139 ▪ Education efforts include signs,
1140 personal contacts and printed
1141 information. Through these
1142 methods of contact, staff educates
1143 the public regarding why it is
1144 important to respect project
1145 boundaries, and the ways
1146 restoration projects benefit of the
1147 overall health of the system, thus
1148 ensuring recreational opportunities
1149 be managed for the long term.

1150 ▪ Engineering includes vertical
1151 mulching to stabilize restoration sites, and installation of barriers
1152 to prevent incursion into restored areas.

1153 ▪ Enforcement actions (contacts and citations, etc.) is another tool
1154 leading to increased restoration success in those instances when



1155 education and engineering have not proven to be successful in
1156 preventing vehicle incursions into restored areas.

1157 *Bureau of Land Management*

1158 With strong support from the Division, the BLM has accomplished
1159 restoration of 322 miles of non-designated OHV trails across California
1160 and 484 acres of vehicle-disturbed lands since 2004. The BLM focuses
1161 most intensively on lands in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts.

1162 Restoration has accelerated the process of reconnecting fragmented
1163 desert vegetation and has set the stage for recovering blocks of
1164 uninterrupted habitat for threatened and endangered species such as
1165 desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel, and for BLM sensitive
1166 species such as the flat-tailed horned lizard.

1167 The principal strategy for vegetation restoration and habitat enhancement
1168 has been to create conditions on the ground that redirect OHV recreation
1169 away from unauthorized OHV trails and areas so that natural desert
1170 ecosystems can initiate the process of recovering vegetation communities
1171 and habitat continuity impacted by OHV recreation.

1172 Desert techniques generally involve:

- 1173 ▪ Vertical mulching to create a visual barrier of dead and down
1174 vegetation to the line of sight that disguises a former trail and or
1175 make use of rock work and fencing to create a physical barrier.
- 1176 ▪ Texturing the bare soil with small pits which are then filled with
1177 seeds found in the plant litter beneath nearby shrubs. These pits
1178 act as rainfall traps that concentrate water to the seeds at the
1179 bottom of the pit and give seeds a more favorable microsite for
1180 germination.

1181 Significant projects underway are: fencing the wildlife-rich Dos Palmas
1182 ACEC near Indio; landscape restoration for the hyperarid Yuha Desert
1183 near El Centro; and rehabilitation of vehicle damage in the Alabama Hills,
1184 a popular scenic recreation destination in the Owens Valley. Restoration
1185 crews patrol the boundaries of all 67 BLM desert wildernesses and
1186 secure wilderness boundaries by mending fences, disguising old mining

1187 roads, and creating needed parking areas for OHV recreationists at
1188 wilderness edges.

1189 An important change to the OHMVR Grants Program provided for funding
1190 to non-profits for restoration and trail maintenance. In 2009, Friends of
1191 Jawbone took advantage of this opportunity and applied for and received
1192 a grant for restoration work on BLM land in the Jawbone-Butterbrecht
1193 ACEC, near California City, in Kern County. BLM will continue to expand
1194 its partnerships with Friends of Jawbone and other OHV clubs and
1195 advocacy groups who share a concern for land stewardship and
1196 responsible use.

1197 Monitoring restoration projects
1198 is a key element for
1199 evaluating the success of
1200 various restoration techniques
1201 and engaging in adaptive
1202 management to adjust
1203 approaches to restoration as
1204 needed. The BLM California
1205 Desert District has
1206 established a uniform protocol
1207 to document the installation of
1208 restoration projects so that a



1209 historic record of baseline conditions is available for evaluating future
1210 work. Following initial restoration actions, the project managers, park
1211 rangers, and law enforcement officers check on restoration sites at least
1212 quarterly. If storm erosion, inadequate vegetation taking hold, or illegal
1213 riding cause the site to depart from desired conditions, the restoration
1214 project managers can respond quickly with remedial treatments. Both
1215 site photography and quantitative monitoring of vegetation cover and
1216 species composition take place every year for at least five years.

1217 The BLM has also been the
1218 beneficiary of grants that help
1219 agency restoration ecologists
1220 conduct adaptive management
1221 testing with new techniques in
1222 restoration methods and
1223 review past results of
1224 restoration projects. Two
1225 major projects have been
1226 completed: (1) experimental
1227 restoration trials on serpentine
1228 (magnesium-rich) barrens and
1229 adjacent serpentine riparian
1230 areas in the Inner Coast
1231 Range; and (2) a retrospective
1232 view of rates of natural and
1233 facilitated regeneration along
1234 the Los Angeles Aqueduct.
1235 Currently, the staffs of the
1236 BLM Needles and Lake Havasu
1237 field offices are collaborating
1238 on restoration methods to
1239 jumpstart regeneration of
1240 saguaros in OHV riding areas
1241 in eastern San Bernardino
1242 County, one of two sites where
1243 saguaros still occur in California.

1244



ALABAMA HILLS

An example of a project that received a national award is the Alabama Hills restoration project completed by the BLM Bishop Field Office. The project involved the re-alignment and restriction of parking areas; closed motorized "challenge" areas; restored habitat damaged by irresponsible and illegal OHV use; developed and printed maps, rules and regulations; and monitored restored impacted areas. The OHV Trust Fund contributed \$120,000 to this project.

This project was a partnership effort between the BLM Bishop Field Office and the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group, a local community group. In recognition of outstanding conservation achievements attained through collaboration and partnership with others, the BLM Bishop Field Office and the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group received the United States Department of Interior Cooperative Conservation Award. The award recognizes cooperative conservation achievements that involve collaborative activity among a diverse range of entities that may include federal, state, local and tribal governments, private for-profit and non-profit institutions, other non-governmental entities, and individuals.



1246 **REPORT REQUIREMENT 4:**

1247 *A summary of resource monitoring data compiled and restoration*
1248 *work completed.*

1249 **State Vehicular Recreation Areas**

1250 Monitoring data are essential for understanding and addressing the
1251 natural resource needs of an SVRA. Monitoring may provide targeted
1252 data, such as determining the presence of specific special-status
1253 species, or answer broader questions about species diversity and
1254 biological trends. The WHPP, mandated by PRC section 5090.35, and the
1255 Habitat Monitoring System (HMS) developed by the Division are a major
1256 part of each SVRA's resource monitoring and evaluation program.

1257 The Division helps guide resource management for the entire SVRA
1258 system, and each SVRA's HMS includes standardized protocols tailored
1259 for the needs of the particular SVRA. In addition, each SVRA prepared a
1260 WHPP, which focused on habitat management, and is supported by the
1261 HMS.

1262 The goals of the WHPP are to monitor and manage wildlife and plant
1263 populations and restore habitats where necessary to sustain a viable
1264 species composition for each area. The data collected through monitoring
1265 help answer a range of questions, such as: What habitats need
1266 additional protection; where should funds be expended; where should
1267 fencing be located to protect sensitive habitats; which habitat types are
1268 more resistant to OHV use and which are not; which OHV use patterns
1269 are sustainable and which are not? These plans enable adaptive
1270 management, allowing management practices and strategies to change,
1271 or "adapt," as warranted by the new monitoring information.

1272 Environmental Scientists for each SVRA conduct and oversee the
1273 monitoring based on the HMS and other monitoring protocols.
1274 Environmental Scientists monitor wildlife and plants. Since 2004, funding
1275 for monitoring has increased. In some instances, park resource staff has
1276 increased as well.

1277 Examples of the monitoring activities in the SVRAs are listed below:

1278 *Clay Pit SVRA*

1279 A wetland delineation completed in 2005 located 154 wetlands, including
1280 vernal pools, and a follow up delineation was conducted in 2007.
1281 Together the two delineations identified almost 200 separate wetlands.
1282 Surveys of the vernal pools identified various aquatic flowering plants
1283 and biota, including the federally-threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp.
1284 Additionally, a bird survey and vegetation survey for sensitive plant
1285 species have been completed. A hydrological study is also underway and
1286 is estimated to be completed in 2011. As the second phase of the
1287 WHPP/HMS revision is completed, ongoing annual monitoring will be
1288 implemented. Beginning in 2010, such monitoring may include birds,
1289 aquatic invertebrates, reptiles, and plants.

1290 *Prairie City SVRA*

1291 For the past several years, park Environmental Scientists have conducted
1292 a variety of surveys measuring various aspects of the park's ecosystem,
1293 including vegetation, birds,
1294 amphibians, and mammals. The
1295 goal of these monitoring efforts is
1296 to establish an inventory of the
1297 various species and measure
1298 changes in their abundance or
1299 composition over time. The data
1300 are then used to help inform
1301 management decisions in the park.
1302 The surveys have documented the
1303 park is visited or home to over 93
1304 species of birds. Of particular
1305 interest are the common
1306 yellowthroat, lark sparrow, and
1307 Lewis's woodpecker, populations
1308 which, according to the Audubon
1309 Society, are considered to be in
1310 decline, but use the open space
1311 provided by the SVRA.



1312 In addition, these survey efforts have revealed and confirmed the
1313 presence of several special-status species, including the federally-
1314 threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle and vernal pool fairy shrimp,
1315 the state-threatened Swainson's hawk, and two California species of
1316 special concern, the western spadefoot toad and the western pond turtle.
1317 The park supports and sustains two habitats designated as critical by the
1318 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): elderberry trees and vernal
1319 pools. Past wildlife surveys have helped establish the locations of these
1320 special-status species and their critical habitats leading to the
1321 implementation of protection measures such as fencing, trail re-routes,
1322 and seasonal closures.

1323 *Carnegie SVRA*

1324 For the past several years, wildlife surveys on areas of the SRVA have
1325 been conducted for birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.
1326 Throughout the year, the park is visited or home to more than 120 bird
1327 species. Additional wildlife typically seen on or near the unit includes
1328 black-tailed deer, tule elk, coyotes, red-tailed hawks, and California
1329 ground squirrels. Eight special-status animal species are known to inhabit
1330 the park, including foothill yellow-legged frogs, California red-legged
1331 frogs, western spadefoot toads, California tiger salamanders, western
1332 pond turtles, golden eagles, prairie falcons, and Townsend's big-eared
1333 bats. In addition, potential habitat exists for Alameda whipsnakes and
1334 San Joaquin kit fox—both state- and federally-listed species.

1335 A great deal of the species monitoring has taken place on the Alameda
1336 parcel, an area of the park where public access is currently not allowed.
1337 These efforts include bird transects, mammal trap lines, and pond
1338 surveys. Interestingly, California red-legged frogs and California tiger
1339 salamanders, both federally-listed species, are fairly common in the
1340 ponds located on the Alameda parcel.

1341 *Hollister Hills SVRA*

1342 Vegetation and wildlife monitoring, including monitoring for invasive
1343 species, is ongoing at the park. The most recent amphibian surveys
1344 indicate high populations of federally-threatened California red-legged
1345 frogs, state- and federally-threatened California tiger salamanders,

1346 Pacific chorus frogs, western toads, and California newts in the park's
1347 ponds.

1348 Monitoring for nonnative plants is done on a continuous basis to
1349 determine if invasive species control measures have been effective or
1350 need to be modified. Significant data are also obtained through a grazing
1351 lease that requires monitoring plant species as part of the contract. The
1352 park has retained expertise from U.C. Berkeley to review and obtain data
1353 in association with the grazing program, with a focus on adaptively
1354 managing the grazing program to reduce non-native plant dispersal.

1355 In 2009 with the assistance of the CDFG the park began an aggressive
1356 pig monitoring and depredation program. Non-native feral pigs have
1357 negative effects on the park ecosystems, specifically the California red-
1358 legged frog. The program, which will be reassessed after three years, will
1359 also help protect the California tiger salamander.

1360 The monitoring data have influenced the development on the Hudner and
1361 Renz properties, which has yielded increased OHV opportunity while
1362 protecting wildlife and maintaining biodiversity. Sound and air quality
1363 monitoring is also conducted.

1364 *Oceano Dunes SVRA*

1365 Oceano Dunes SVRA conducts annual HMS monitoring that includes
1366 monitoring of vegetation, shoreline birds, terrestrial birds, and
1367 herpetological resources. Surveys are also conducted for small and large
1368 mammals, but not on an annual basis. Every year, Oceano Dunes SVRA
1369 spends a significant amount of time and staff resources monitoring the
1370 nesting and fledgling success of California least terns and western snowy
1371 plovers.

1372 Park staff conducts fisheries surveys of Arroyo Grande Creek on a
1373 quarterly basis to document trends of native fish populations. These
1374 surveys include seining to collect information on the federally-
1375 endangered tidewater goby and electrofishing to document populations of
1376 the federally-threatened steelhead trout. Surveys of other water bodies
1377 within the park are conducted infrequently and have focused on the
1378 Pismo Creek estuary and portions of Oso Flaco Lake.

1379 In 2009, Oceano Dune SVRA entered into a two-year contract with the
1380 Department of Water Resources Environmental Site Assessment Section
1381 to conduct water quality and soil surveys of the SVRA. These surveys
1382 are designed to assess pollution risks from various park activities,
1383 including OHV riding, camping on the beach, and vehicles crossing
1384 Arroyo Grande Creek.

1385 In 2009, Oceano Dunes SVRA also entered into a multi-year contract with
1386 the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District to assess water
1387 quality in Oso Flaco Lake. This effort concentrates on assessing
1388 sediment inputs into the lake from adjacent agricultural activities. The
1389 effort also complements the water quality monitoring being conducted by
1390 the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and agricultural
1391 interests in the Oso Flaco watershed.

1392 *Hungry Valley SVRA*

1393 Habitat monitoring has resulted in an extensive inventory of species and
1394 habitats including 38 species of mammals, 112 species of birds, 25
1395 species of herpetiles, and 234 vegetative species. Habitat monitoring has
1396 also helped clarify several issues related to sensitive species. For a long
1397 time, staff thought Hungry Valley was in the range of the blunt-nosed
1398 leopard lizard, a state- and federally-listed endangered species.
1399 However, through the monitoring conducted at the park, biologists
1400 determined that the leopard lizard found in Hungry Valley is actually the
1401 long nosed leopard lizard, a non-listed species. Another issue clarified
1402 by monitoring was the density and range of the coast horned lizard, a
1403 CDFG species of special concern. Monitoring continues to add to the
1404 information base of the biological resources in the park.

1405 The HMS is conducted annually for vegetation, herptiles, and large
1406 mammals, and biannually for birds and small mammals. The program is
1407 assessed annually and changes are made as needed. For example, in
1408 2004 satellite images replaced aerial photos, and a GIS/GPS protocol
1409 was added for monitoring the coast horned lizard and raptor nest sites.
1410 Data from specimens found are placed in a GIS database to determine
1411 species range and population health. In 2007, staff began the GIS Exotic
1412 Plant mapping database, and in 2008, staff updated and increased the
1413 number of wildlife cameras in the park during large mammal monitoring.

1414 The analysis of these data helps inform management decisions in the
1415 park and provide hard scientific data to back these decisions. In 2009,
1416 staff reviewed the monitoring data from 1997 to 2009 and made graphical
1417 representations of the data collected. These graphical representations
1418 make it easier to understand and visually see any long-term changes that
1419 are occurring at the park and make appropriate management responses.
1420 For example, monitoring data suggest degradation of the habitat due to
1421 recreational activity. The data are being examined and management
1422 options and strategies being considered and prepared as to how to best
1423 manage for “Open Camping” and “Open Riding.” Monitoring also helps
1424 demonstrate and document how the valuable resources of the park are
1425 being managed and protected. The data identifies trends that can be
1426 modified to better support the resources. Monitoring also helps
1427 demonstrate and document how the valuable resources of the park are
1428 being managed and protected. Management actions are outlined in yearly
1429 reports. Monitoring data are being used to plan management strategies.

1430 *Ocotillo Wells SVRA/Heber Dunes SVRA*

1431 Monitoring for habitat and presence of special-status species is a major
1432 component of the Ocotillo Wells District (District) resource management
1433 program and is conducted at both SVRAs. Protocols for most monitoring
1434 surveys have been adapted over the last decade to improve sampling
1435 numbers. Monitoring data are designed to drive resource management
1436 decisions by the means of adaptive management.

1437 The flat-tailed horned lizard, a CDFG species of special concern found
1438 within Ocotillo Wells SVRA, but believed locally extinct (extirpated) in
1439 Heber Dunes SVRA, is the subject of a multi-agency conservation
1440 agreement with a management strategy that includes a substantial
1441 monitoring component. For the last four summer seasons park staff has
1442 been utilizing an occupancy protocol. This species is also very often
1443 observed during the twice-a-year herptile surveys portion of the HMS.
1444 Data from individuals found are part of the developing GIS database for
1445 the park

1446 The HMS is completed on as many as 24 habitat monitoring plots for
1447 vegetation, herptiles, large mammals, birds, and small mammals once or

1448 twice a year. Four of these plots are located in Heber Dunes SVRA; the
1449 remainder are in Ocotillo Wells SVRA.

1450 From 2004 to 2009, the funding for monitoring has increased, including
1451 the addition of two Environmental Scientist positions and one upgrade to
1452 a Senior Environmental Scientist. The increased staffing has allowed the
1453 District to expand the monitoring program at both units, particularly
1454 reptile surveys. Reptile monitoring increased from two one-week surveys
1455 on a limited number of plots to two three-week surveys on twice as many
1456 plots. Flat-tailed horned lizard surveys were expanded to cover the
1457 number of plots recommended by the Interagency Coordinating
1458 Committee. Additionally, vegetation surveys were done in a timelier
1459 manner, and bird surveys could be better synchronized from year to year.
1460 Environmental Scientists also greatly expanded the remote wildlife
1461 camera program at Ocotillo Wells SVRA and started revegetating some
1462 areas in that unit as well, all of which would not have happened without
1463 the expanded staffing.

1464 Over time, habitat monitoring at the District has provided an inventory of
1465 species and habitats and aided in the design of special-status species
1466 monitoring protocols, such as flat-tailed horned lizard and Colorado
1467 fringe-toed lizard at Ocotillo Wells SVRA (believed locally extinct at
1468 Heber Dunes SVRA). The data will inform the general plan process
1469 regarding potential adaptive management decisions on how best to
1470 manage the park in the future.

1471 **Program Improvement**

1472 In an effort to ensure the Division is conducting a quality OHMVR
1473 Program, in 2008 the Division contracted with the University of California
1474 at Davis to provide an independent peer review of the existing HMS
1475 program. The review was completed in 2009.

1476 Among the recommendations of this review is the suggestion to design a
1477 second generation WHPP/HMS that better supports efforts at the SVRAs
1478 to fulfill the goals set forth in PRC Section 5090.35 as well as meet legal
1479 obligations described in state and federal statutes. The second
1480 generation WHPP/HMS would also modify the existing plans of habitat

1481 protection and monitoring with an emphasis defined by natural resource
1482 management needs at each of the SVRAs.

1483 **Monitoring in BLM and USFS Areas**

1484 *Habitat Management Program*

1485 USFS and BLM grantees with projects involving ground disturbing
1486 activities must implement a WHPP, known as a Habitat Management Plan
1487 (HMP) under the OHMVR Grants Program. (PRC Section 5090.53) The
1488 Division developed the WHPP/HMP over several years of working with
1489 USFS and BLM environmental staff. The forms, which were largely
1490 finalized in 2005, are incorporated into the Grants Program regulations.

1491 The HMP requires grantees to identify special-status plant and animal
1492 species that could be at risk from OHV recreation and monitor for
1493 potential impacts to those species. As an adaptive management plan, the
1494 HMP includes management objectives and actions to address the risk,
1495 success criteria to gauge the effectiveness of each management action,
1496 and “triggers” for management change. Each grant application cycle,
1497 grantees report on the results of the previous year’s HMP, including any
1498 management actions taken based on monitoring results

1499 *U.S. Forest Service*

1500 Within California, USFS Region 5 includes all or part of 19 national
1501 forests, totaling approximately 20 million acres, each characterized by
1502 unique and diverse natural resources. All of these forests have received
1503 Grants Program funding sometime during the 2004-2009 period. Of the
1504 more than 8,000 vascular plant species occurring in California, well over
1505 half are known to occur on national forest lands.

1506 Monitoring for wildlife, fish, and plants has been accomplished through a
1507 tiered approach, consisting of local monitoring, including HMPs, focused
1508 studies, and regional monitoring. The focus is generally on local
1509 monitoring to ensure habitats are maintained and protection measures
1510 are implemented. In addition, four focused studies were funded through
1511 the OHMVR Grant Program to assess the effects of OHV use on northern
1512 spotted owl, northern goshawk, American marten, and the vertebrate

1513 assemblage (including prey of these three species). Through 2005, there
1514 was an additional focus on developing and testing a regional monitoring
1515 protocol that would supplement the local monitoring. However, beginning
1516 in 2006, it was determined that the focused studies should be completed
1517 before fully implementing the regional monitoring. Each of these
1518 programs is described in more detail below.

1519 **Local Monitoring:** Local monitoring is conducted at the forest level to
1520 ensure that the standards, guidelines, and protection measures identified
1521 in WHPPs/HMPs are being implemented on the ground. Three checklists
1522 are used to focus this monitoring: the Wildlife Habitat Monitoring
1523 Checklist, the Over Snow Vehicle Monitoring Checklist, and the OHV
1524 Stream Channel Crossing Wildlife Habitat Checklist. Examples of items
1525 monitored include OHV use off designated routes, widening of routes or
1526 stream crossings, and impacts of vehicles on vegetation. In addition,
1527 many forests conduct inventories of species/habitat and monitor
1528 threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Some forests also use
1529 photo points in conjunction with the checklists.

1530 Field personnel complete the checklists, which are then reviewed to
1531 determine if there are any indications of potential problems. If needed, a
1532 field visit to the trail segment is scheduled to review the problem, and a
1533 team then reviews the problem area and determines what correction
1534 actions, if any, are needed. For some problems, such as unauthorized
1535 (user created) routes, corrective actions (closure, signing, limited
1536 operating periods, etc.) are taken without the need for additional
1537 analysis.

1538 **Focused Studies:** During 2004 to 2009, the OHMVR Grants Program
1539 helped fund four focused studies, each designed to address specific
1540 management questions for species at risk and determine if OHV/OSV
1541 activity caused any adverse impacts. Of the four studies, the American
1542 marten study has been completed. The other three will be completed in
1543 2010. All four are described in more detail below.

1544 **American Marten Focused Study:** The marten focused study was
1545 finalized in 2007. This study evaluated the effects of OHV/OSVs on
1546 American martens by comparing marten occupancy rates and probabilities
1547 of detection in areas where OHV/OSV use is legal and encouraged (Use

1548 Areas) and in designated wilderness areas where OHV/OSV use is
1549 prohibited (Non-Use Areas). The study was conducted in the Lake Tahoe
1550 Basin Management Unit and Sierra National Forest using remote sound
1551 level meters, track stations, remote camera stations, and field
1552 observations. The study also assessed the potential effects of
1553 OHVs/OSVs on marten sex ratios and circadian (e.g., 24-hours) patterns
1554 of activity. The study found that martens were ubiquitous in Use and Non-
1555 Use Areas, and there was no effect of OHV/OSV use on marten
1556 occupancy or probability of detection. It is possible, however, that
1557 OHVs/OSVs have effects, alone or in concert with other activities (e.g.,
1558 timber harvest), that were not quantified in this study. The two study
1559 areas also had low OHV/OSV use levels impacting only a small
1560 percentage of a marten's home range. The application of these results to
1561 other locations is thus only appropriate if OHV/OSV use at the other
1562 locations is no greater than reported in this study.

1563 **Northern Goshawk Focused Study.** This study, conducted on the
1564 Plumas National Forest, evaluates OHV/OSV use and noise around
1565 Northern goshawk nests and nest stands and uses experimental
1566 manipulations designed to evaluate the bird's sensitivity to direct
1567 disturbance by OHV/OSVs during the nesting, post-fledging, and winter
1568 (non-breeding) seasons. The study will estimate the relationship between
1569 goshawk reproductive success, post-fledging survival rates, nesting
1570 behavior, and likelihood of nesting relative to OHV/OSV use and noise.

1571 **Vertebrate Assemblage Focused Study.** This study, conducted on the
1572 Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Sierra National Forest, and
1573 Stanislaus National Forest, assesses the effects of OHV use and roads
1574 on forest songbird communities, forest-associated small mammal species
1575 and communities, and forest-associated bird and mammalian carnivores,
1576 including prey-base implications for top carnivores. The study pairs OHV
1577 use areas with similar areas not receiving OHV use, within which habitat
1578 and recreational use were measured and species surveys were
1579 conducted.

1580 **Northern Spotted Owl Focused Study.** The objectives of this study,
1581 conducted on the Shasta-Trinity and Mendocino National Forests, are to:
1582 (1) describe northern spotted owl stress levels, behavior, and nesting
1583 success and OHV use at selected northern spotted owl nest and/or roost

sites over time; (2) determine whether OHV use affects northern spotted owl stress levels, behavior, or nesting success, and, whether observed effects vary with reproductive state over time; and (3) determine the need for disturbance-specific management considerations to minimize potential adverse effects of OHV use on spotted owls that reside on national forest system lands. Experimental treatments were used to expose northern spotted owls to simulated OHV use events, and stress levels were measured via corticosterone analysis of collected scat.

Regional Monitoring: Regional monitoring is designed to assess randomly selected OHV use sites on national forests in California. Each OHV use site is paired with a similar non-OHV use site to interpret conditions observed at OHV use sites. At each of the sites, OHV use, habitat, and plant and wildlife species are monitored, similar to the methodology used in the Vertebrate Assemblage focused study. The regional monitoring protocol was pilot-tested for summer and winter seasons; additional data were collected in association with the Vertebrate Assemblage Focused Study. This project was not funded between 2006-2009 because of limited funding and a priority on the focused studies. Analyses and conclusions from the Vertebrate Assemblage Focused Study will be used to finalize the protocol, and phased implementation onto the 19 national forest in California is anticipated once the focused studies are complete.

Bureau of Land Management

Natural Resource Conditions and Monitoring

With consistent funding support since 2003 from the Division, the BLM has been able to initiate long-term monitoring of several guilds (ecologically related species) of wildlife species and a number of rare plants. Indicator species, or guilds of similar species, serve as indicators for “ecosystem health,” and they provide BLM with a report card on the flora and fauna on OHV recreation lands. These species, or guilds of species, can furnish the most information about responses by species in OHV-recreation landscapes. BLM focuses its OHV monitoring principally in the California deserts and the Inner Coast Range. Focal species are: migratory bird species, resident raptors, bats, desert lizards, desert tortoise, and foothill yellow-legged frog. Vegetation communities of

1619 greatest concern where OHV recreation is popular are desert dunes,
1620 creosote scrub, and Sonoran Desert thorn woodlands. The BLM staff has
1621 also studied individual plant species such as the Mecca woody-aster,
1622 native only to the Meccacopia Special Recreation Area just above the
1623 northern end of the Salton Sea.

1624 All monitoring supported by the Division on BLM OHV-recreation lands
1625 takes place according to detailed written protocols. Project managers
1626 train monitoring crews in the field to make sure crew members have the
1627 requisite skills, and that results are comparable year to year. With
1628 multiple years of consistently reproduced data, BLM biologists can
1629 analyze trend data and adjust management to safeguard wildlife and their
1630 habitat.

1631 In the coming years, the BLM is expecting to give greater attention to
1632 mapping and monitoring non-native invasive plants in OHV recreation
1633 areas. More remains to be learned about the impacts of OHV riding on
1634 wildlife and vegetation, especially as the spectrum of available vehicle
1635 types expands. BLM will work with OHV recreation partners to ensure that
1636 OHVs do not become major vectors in the spread of weeds.

1637 Future collaboration between the Division and the federal agencies could
1638 ensure the agencies are monitoring similar variables and species under
1639 uniform protocols. In this way, interagency efforts can build a stronger
1640 base of information about wildlife responses to OHV-riding environments
1641 in the varied ecosystems of California.

1642 **Restoration work completed at the SVRAs**

1643 In the past four years, the challenges facing land managers have been
1644 particularly difficult due to increasing demands for managed OHV areas
1645 providing high-quality recreational experiences, balanced with the
1646 protection of resources. As the demand for areas available for OHV use
1647 continues to increase, the impacts to the land can be significant. In some
1648 instances, the impacts are due to overuse while in other areas it may be
1649 due to ingress into closed areas. Superintendents and Environmental
1650 Scientists must work closely to balance the provision of OHV
1651 opportunities while protecting the environment. Overall, restoration

1652 projects in the SVRAs have greatly enhanced the health of the park's
1653 ecosystem and density of habitat.

1654 The purpose for restoration is to repair and restore habitat that has been
1655 impacted by OHV activity in order to provide appropriate ecological
1656 balance between the provision of OHV recreation and sustaining a viable
1657 species composition. Restoration is one of many responses to the
1658 ongoing monitoring of resources.

1659 Each SVRA is unique in the recreational opportunities it provides and the
1660 natural resource environment in which the recreational activity takes
1661 place. Equally, each SVRA is different in the impacts the habitat can
1662 withstand. When it is determined that conservation or management
1663 options are not sufficient to address OHV impacts on habitats or soils,
1664 affected areas within the SVRAs are closed for restoration of the land as
1665 nearly as possible to its natural condition.

1666 These restoration activities may include:

- 1667 ▪ Re-contouring land or drainage areas to disperse concentrated
1668 flows, reduce hydraulic energy, and prevent soil transport
- 1669 ▪ Installing water control features such as check dams to slow water
- 1670 ▪ Revegetating the area with native plants by hand or by hydro-
1671 seeding

1672 Although the SVRAs are diverse and complex, and restoration solutions
1673 and plans are unique to the given park and region, many of the same
1674 techniques used to ensure a restoration project is successful are used
1675 throughout the SVRAs. Techniques include but are not limited to:

- 1676 ▪ Closing of the area with protective fencing, barriers, or rock to
1677 prevent intrusion.
- 1678 ▪ Planting programs often with plants raised from SVRA greenhouse
1679 facilities
- 1680 ▪ Determining methods for watering plants (when appropriate) which
1681 have yet to be fully established

1682 ▪ Monitoring the area to ensure restoration project success. This
1683 could be once a week, several times a month, or even annually for
1684 established restoration areas

1685 Examples of successful restoration projects at the SVRAs are below:

1686 ▪ At Carnegie, due to the steep terrain and dense vegetation, trail
1687 crews and environmental scientist staff have collaborated regarding
1688 the implementing of restoration work. This work required tooling out
1689 large ruts, re-contouring trail tread, and installing water control
1690 features. Significant restoration projects that have greatly
1691 enhanced the health of the park's ecosystem and density of habitat
1692 include Rocky Knob, Dead Cow Canyon, and Los Osos.

1693 ▪ At Carnegie, the Los Osos drainage area had been experiencing
1694 incising. In 2009, crews re-contoured the drainage to help disperse
1695 the concentrated flow, installed several rock check dams to slow
1696 the water, and hydroseeded the uphill slopes to help with
1697 infiltration.

1698 ▪ At Prairie City, park staff installed protective fencing around a
1699 sensitive stand of native blue oaks. Staff planted seedlings and will
1700 continue to collect acorns and plant oaks in the area.

1701 ▪ At Hollister Hills, sediment depositing into Tule Lake was alleviated
1702 upon completion of a two year, three-part restoration project. Areas
1703 were closed, fencing installed in areas where trespass was a
1704 concern, and the entire watershed was carefully revegetated by
1705 hand using seeds that had been cultivated from native plants.

1706 ▪ At Hollister Hills, a project involved recontouring the drainages in
1707 and around the GP track, strategically placing several hundred tons
1708 of boulders, and revegetating the area, successfully dispersing the
1709 hydraulic energy and preventing soil transport into the watershed.

1710 ▪ At Oceano Dunes, staff has undertaken one large restoration
1711 project every year since the early 1990s to manage sand movement
1712 into this native dune and dune scrub habitat. Since 2004,
1713 approximately 140 acres of actively eroding sand dunes have been
1714 restored.

- 1715 ▪ At Oceano Dunes, in 2007, a restoration project resulted in the
1716 restoration of 28 acres of active sand sheet. This project helps
1717 control the movement of sand into Oso Flaco Lake.
- 1718 ▪ At Hungry Valley, park staff focused on the restoration of a hill
1719 climb. Recontouring of the slope, rehabilitation, hydro-seeding, and
1720 fencing were used to successfully complete this project.
- 1721 ▪ At Hungry Valley, in 2007 a major erosion control project was
1722 carried out on the stretch of Maxey Wash behind Smith Forks
1723 Campground. The wash was hard surfaced with carefully placed 3-
1724 foot to 5-foot diameter boulders, which eliminated soil loss and
1725 erosion adjacent to the campground.
- 1726 ▪ At Ocotillo Wells, the largest fencing and restoration project took
1727 place in 2006 and 2007, when a large area of mesquite dune
1728 habitat was enclosed east of Devil's Slide road to Wolfe Well Road
1729 and in the dunes northeast of Benson Lake after showing signs of
1730 serious degradation due to OHV activity.
- 1731 ▪ Current restoration efforts include a planting program using plants
1732 raised at the park greenhouse facility

1733 **REPORT REQUIREMENT 5:**

1734 *Actions taken by the division and department since the last*
1735 *program report to discourage and decrease trespass of off-*
1736 *highway motor vehicles on private property*

1737 Preventing trespass onto private property and other areas closed to OHV
1738 recreation is one of the central objectives of the OHMVR Program. The
1739 OHMVR Program was founded on the principle that providing “effectively
1740 managed areas and adequate facilities for the use of off-highway vehicles
1741 and conservation and enforcement are essential for ecologically balanced
1742 recreation” (PRC Section 5090.02 (b)). When adequate areas for OHV
1743 recreation are provided, people are far less likely to trespass onto private
1744 lands and closed areas.

1745 Ensuring enthusiasts recreate in legal, managed areas requires:

1746 A. Providing appropriate areas which are readily accessible and
1747 provide an interesting recreational experience

1748 B. Maintaining areas in good order

1749 C. Educating the public on how to discourage and prevent OHV
1750 trespass, the location of legal recreational opportunities, and the
1751 negative impacts which result from recreating in unmanaged or
1752 closed areas

1753 D. Enforcement of applicable laws

1754 **Providing appropriate areas which are readily accessible**

1755 The popularity of OHV recreation has continued to rise, while the areas
1756 available to legally recreate have decreased over time.

1757 Acquisition of new OHV opportunity is a key component of the legislative
1758 intent for the OHMVR Program to keep pace with increasing demand for
1759 recreational opportunity. Replacing these lost opportunities with new
1760 areas has not kept pace with the growing demand for additional OHV
1761 recreation.

1762 One notable exception was the development and opening of the Renz
1763 property in Hollister Hills SVRA. This area had been purchased in 1989.
1764 After extensive study and planning, a trail system was constructed which
1765 provides a high level of rider interest while at the same time minimizing
1766 impacts to the environment. Trails were also constructed to minimize
1767 sound impacts to neighboring property owners. In 2007, the California
1768 Biodiversity Council toured the newly opened trail system and considered
1769 it a model for future OHV recreation developments.

1770 Redirection of trust funds as a result of budgetary and fiscal problems
1771 (\$90 million in 2008-2009 and \$22 million in 2009-2010) has exacerbated
1772 the problem by tying up funds that could otherwise be directed towards
1773 acquisition and development of new OHV recreation opportunities.

1774 **Maintaining areas in good order**

1775 Maintaining trails and areas in good order is important not only to prevent
1776 environmental degradation, but also to keep OHV areas from becoming
1777 undesirable to recreationists.

1778 The OHMVR Program has increased the amount of grant funding
1779 available for trail maintenance and repairs significantly in recent years. In
1780 2006-2007, only \$326,800 was directed to trail projects. By 2008-2009,
1781 that amount has risen to approximately \$7.9 million.

1782 **Educating the public on how to discourage and prevent OHV** 1783 **trespass, the location of legal recreational opportunities, and the** 1784 **negative impacts which result from recreating in unmanaged or** 1785 **closed areas**

1786 The Division has taken an active role in educating the public on ways to
1787 discourage and reduce OHV trespass. Staff from the Division has been
1788 invited to, and participated in, meetings and conferences in local
1789 communities who have concerns about illegal trespass and impacts in
1790 their communities from OHV use. For instance, when residents from
1791 Yucca Valley reported to the Commission their concerns regarding OHV
1792 trespass occurring in their community, Division staff visited the area and
1793 met with local residents to discuss the issue. Topics such as appropriate
1794 signage, identification of property boundaries, and ways to increase law

1795 enforcement patrols were discussed with residents, land managers, and
1796 local law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement personnel from the
1797 Division also assisted local law enforcement agencies in patrolling the
1798 area and contacting OHV recreationists to inform them about appropriate
1799 areas in which to recreate.

1800 Additional educational efforts to discourage and decrease trespass on
1801 private property have been taken by the Commission and Division. These
1802 include:

- 1803 ✓ Providing an internet link to, as well as hard copies of, the OHV
1804 Laws Book
- 1805 ✓ Providing a Frequently Asked Questions web page specific to OHV
1806 use
- 1807 ✓ Educating private property owners on steps to take to reduce illegal
1808 OHV use on their lands
- 1809 ✓ Increased presence and participation at community outreach events
1810 to educate the public about the OHMVR Program and to learn their
1811 concerns
- 1812 ✓ Creating a process where members of the public can direct
1813 comments and questions directly to the Division
1814 (ohvinfo@parks.ca.gov) or to the Commission
1815 (OHVcommission@parks.ca.gov) regarding OHV recreation, and
1816 receive responses from Division and Commission staff
- 1817 ✓ Developing and distributing an OHV quick reference handbook for
1818 law enforcement officers statewide
- 1819 ✓ Working with local, state and federal law enforcement organizations
1820 on education and enforcement efforts
- 1821 ✓ Providing technical assistance to local counties considering
1822 ordinances related to recreational OHV use
- 1823 ✓ Reaching out to interested communities about the OHMVR Program
1824 and funding available for projects in their area

1825 The importance of education was acknowledged in SB 742 by the creation
1826 of a specific category in the Grants Program dedicated to Education and
1827 Safety. This category receives 5% of available grant funds. Education

1828 projects competing for funding in this category must include a
1829 comprehensive education curriculum that teaches, among other things,
1830 respect for private property and environmental responsibility.

1831 **Enforcement of Applicable Laws**

1832 Active law enforcement is an essential element in the effort to discourage
1833 and decrease trespass by OHV enthusiasts onto private lands. There will
1834 always be a need for law enforcement activities to address those who are
1835 uninformed of, or choose to ignore, laws relating to responsible OHV
1836 recreation.

1837 ***Financial Support of Law Enforcement Efforts***

1838 The provision of law enforcement patrols to enforce OHV laws and
1839 prevent trespass into private lands and closed areas has, at times, been
1840 made a low priority by agencies who could not afford to commit funds to
1841 the effort. Two sources of OHV funding are available to law enforcement
1842 agencies from the OHMVR Program: In-Lieu funds and Grants from the
1843 OHV Trust Fund

1844 ***Change in In-Lieu Funding Distributions***

1845 A \$4 fee is imposed for the issuance or renewal of identification for each
1846 off-highway motor vehicle subject to identification [registration] in-lieu of
1847 all taxes on value levied for state or local purposes (CVC Section 38230).
1848 These in-lieu funds are to be used by local agencies to provide OHV
1849 opportunities and facilities, including law enforcement efforts. In-lieu
1850 funds are now directed to counties based on how much OHV activity
1851 occurs in the county. These funds were previously distributed based on
1852 the population of a county. This resulted in some counties with very little
1853 OHV enforcement needs receiving large amounts of funding based on
1854 their high population (e.g., San Francisco). By directing funds to counties
1855 based on the level of OHV activity, counties with smaller populations that
1856 are visited by large numbers of OHV recreationists (e.g., Imperial County)
1857 are now receiving a more appropriate share of the available funds.

1858 ***Grant Funding***

1859 Grant funding has now been stabilized to provide improved certainty for
1860 local and federal law enforcement efforts from year to year.

1861 Due to the competitive nature of the grant application process, law
1862 enforcement agencies were never certain from year to year if they would
1863 be successful in securing funding from the OHMVR Grant Program.

1864 This issue was addressed in SB 742 by changing the way in which law
1865 enforcement grant funds are distributed. Law enforcement funds are now
1866 distributed on a non-competitive basis proportionate to the off-highway
1867 motor vehicle needs under each entity's jurisdiction. Also, the level of
1868 funding was set at 20% of grant funds available in each grant cycle, thus
1869 creating a predictable and consistent level of funding support for law
1870 enforcement activities. These changes ensure that each agency that
1871 demonstrates a need for addressing OHV related issues can rely upon
1872 receiving some consistent level of funding every grant cycle. While this
1873 will provide a level of stability in OHV law enforcement programs,
1874 requests from law enforcement agencies indicate that funding available is
1875 far short of the level needed to fully address law enforcement needs
1876 statewide.

1877 ***Division has taken a leadership role in coordinating local, state***
1878 ***and federal law enforcement to address issues***

1879 The Division Public Safety Team works statewide with counties and
1880 federal agencies to provide tools, techniques and assistance to help
1881 prevent the occurrence of trespass. Law enforcement officers provide
1882 expertise and training in the applicability of OHV laws. Where OHV
1883 trespass and violations of closed areas have become particularly
1884 problematic for local agencies to address, the Division Public Safety
1885 Team provides assistance in planning focused enforcement actions, and
1886 supplementing local law enforcement staff by directly participating in
1887 enforcement actions to detour and apprehend violators.

1888 **REPORT REQUIREMENT 6:**

1889 *Other relevant program-related environmental issues that have*
1890 *arisen since the last program report.*

1891 **Green Initiatives**

1892 The OHMVR Commission is committed to supporting sustainable OHV
1893 recreation opportunities while at the same time reducing effects on the
1894 environment by encouraging environmentally responsible choices.
1895 Likewise, the Division is committed to becoming a leader in
1896 environmental responsibility and resource protection within the OHV
1897 community.

1898 Accordingly, the Division fulfills its commitments through various means,
1899 including actively pursuing opportunities to implement its green program
1900 initiatives as outlined in its Strategic Plan. In addition, the Division is
1901 developing, analyzing, and implementing responsible green program
1902 management strategies and environmentally sustainable land
1903 management solutions. The Division is dedicated to efforts and actions
1904 related to improving technology, reducing use of fossil fuels, increasing
1905 energy efficiency, and enhancing the overall environmental sustainability
1906 of its operations.

1907 The Division's efforts and on the ground strategies include the purchase
1908 of renewable energy and alternative fuels and vehicles, energy-efficiency
1909 improvements for new and existing facilities, and the procurement of less
1910 energy-intensive and more environmentally responsible goods and
1911 services. Moreover, the Division actively pursues actions to reduce its
1912 carbon footprint, greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), toxic substances, and
1913 waste from its operations. Ongoing research, strategies, and long-term
1914 goals include developing green specifications for equipment, facilities,
1915 and vehicles.

1916 **Overview of USFS Travel Management in California**

1917 In 2000/2001 through the Grants Program the Division began awarding
1918 funding to individual forests for route designation. As OHV recreation
1919 continued to increase, the USFS recognized that the impacts from cross

1920 country travel on open forest lands throughout California were resulting
1921 in an unacceptable level of environmental damage. It became
1922 increasingly evident that a managed system of roads, trails and areas
1923 was necessary on Forest Service lands.

1924 In August 2003, the USFS entered into a Memorandum of Intent (MOI)
1925 with the Commission and the Division for the purpose of establishing a
1926 common goal to achieve route designation and the regulation of
1927 motorized vehicles within USFS managed lands in California.

1928 In 2005, the USFS issued a national framework for local forests to
1929 designate a sustainable system of roads, trails and areas for public motor
1930 vehicle use. In order to align with the new national framework, route
1931 designation became Travel Management.

1932 Currently, the USFS in California is working through a Travel
1933 Management process. This process is the "first step" in implementing the
1934 national Travel Management Rule which is resulting in the publication of
1935 a Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUMs) that identify the roads, trails and
1936 areas open to public motor vehicle use on every national forest. The
1937 MVUM maps are required to meet a national standard showing only
1938 designated roads, trails and areas.

1939 National Forests throughout California have been working with the
1940 motorized, access, environmental, and other non-motorized communities
1941 to identify existing routes, trails and areas, and to develop changes to
1942 motor vehicle use on the existing National Forest Transportation System.

1943 Management decisions and MVUMs represent the first in the long term
1944 objective of implementing the Travel Management Rule to reduce the
1945 environmental impacts associated with public motor vehicle use on
1946 national forests, and develop a sustainable system of roads, trails and
1947 areas for public motorized use.

1948 For the past seven years the Commission and Division, in collaboration
1949 with Region 5 of the USFS, have supported the inventorying and travel
1950 management planning through grant funding. To date approximately
1951 \$12 million has been awarded through the cooperative agreement
1952 process.

1953 The USFS recognizes that Travel Management rules will change the way
1954 that people access and experience national forests. Nevertheless, this
1955 change must occur in order to allow long term OHV opportunities and
1956 protection of natural and cultural resources.

1957 The majority of forests in Region 5 have either finished their Final EIS
1958 and Record of Determination (ROD), or are in various stages of the NEPA
1959 process in the preparation of their Environmental Impact Statements
1960 (EIS).

1961 **Global Warming and Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

1962 The Commission shares concern over GHG emissions and the recognition
1963 of their significant adverse impact on the state's climate and environment
1964 state and federal policies and regulations have been developed requiring
1965 or promoting reductions in GHG emissions. In 2006 California's Global
1966 Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) was passed. AB 32 recognizes the
1967 significant effects of GHG emissions and the threats to public health,
1968 natural resources, and the environment of California resulting from global
1969 warming. The Division and its SVRAs comply with AB 32 and other state,
1970 federal, and county policies and regulations concerning GHG emissions.

1971 In keeping with the carbon emission reduction goals of AB 32, the
1972 Division's Strategic Plan outlines the following long-term objective: Using
1973 the 2009/2010 fiscal year as a baseline, achieve a 25% reduction in
1974 carbon footprint from management of the SVRAs by 2020. The Division is
1975 currently working with SVRA staff to implement strategies and solutions
1976 to achieve this goal.

1977 **Solar Development**

1978 In 2001, the Commission established a policy that new projects
1979 constructed in SVRAs were to incorporate renewable energy technology.
1980 The use of solar systems at some of the SVRAs is one of several
1981 strategies the SVRAs are using to reduce their carbon footprint. Some of
1982 the SVRAs are successfully meeting a portion of their electrical demand
1983 through on-site generation.

1984 For example, in 2008, Prairie
1985 City SVRA installed a solar-
1986 electric system on the roofs
1987 of its Environmental Training
1988 Center (ETC) and the visitor
1989 services entrance station.
1990 The solar units come with
1991 real-time digital meters
1992 allowing Prairie City staff to
1993 monitor facility performance
1994 and track energy usage. Total
1995 power generated, peak day,
1996 and total CO2 savings is recorded. The solar panels at Prairie City save
1997 over 14,000 KWH annually and, to date, over 62,000 lbs of CO2
1998 emissions has been saved due to facility energy upgrades.



1999 Hungry Valley and Ocotillo Wells SVRAs are also using the benefits of
2000 solar panels to generate power for various park facilities within their
2001 SVRAs.

2002 *Wind Energy*

2003 Wind generated electrical power offers advantages and opportunities for
2004 the Division to reduce carbon footprint at the SVRAs. In looking at its
2005 portfolio of options to reduce its carbon footprint, staff at Ocotillo Wells
2006 SVRA is currently analyzing the feasibility of using wind turbines to
2007 produce energy to power several of its facilities. The goal is to use wind
2008 energy to offset power usage for as many buildings as possible. The wind
2009 generators being considered will produce energy for less than the
2010 average cost of electricity

2011 *Alternative Fuel Vehicles*

2012 The last several years have seen an increase in development and use of
2013 alternative fuel OHVs. In addition, highway-legal vehicles designed for
2014 off-highway use are now being offered by many manufacturers in flex-fuel
2015 and hybrid configurations. Some manufacturers are now offering fully
2016 electric motorcycles and four wheeled vehicles for off-highway use.
2017 These electric vehicles provide important opportunities for the public, the
2018 Division, and the future of OHV recreation. They produce minimal noise,

2019 use no fossil fuels directly, can be operated near urban areas with little
2020 sound disturbance to surrounding residents, and may present
2021 opportunities for development of OHV recreation areas in locations near
2022 urban centers.

2023 California's Management Memo 06-03, Vehicle Purchase and Lease
2024 Policy, was released in 2006 as part of the state's efforts to meet
2025 ambient air quality standards and reduce the state fleet's petroleum use
2026 and impact on the environment. This policy applies to the purchase and
2027 lease of light-duty, alternative fuel, gasoline, hybrid-electric, sport utility,
2028 and four-wheel drive vehicles. The Division and its SVRAs meet and
2029 exceed this mandate.

2030 The Division recently purchased a small fleet of electric dual-sport
2031 motorcycles and electric Recreational Utility Vehicles (RUVs). These
2032 vehicles provide fuel efficient, safe, and durable transportation for SVRA
2033 staff.

2034 The purchase of these electric vehicles is an early step in the right
2035 direction and is in line with the Division's education efforts and long-term
2036 strategy to meet the Governor's mandates, fulfill its Strategic Plan goals,
2037 and reduce its own-as well as California's-carbon footprint. The Division,
2038 the SVRAs, and its staff are in an ideal position to promote zero emission
2039 OHVs to the public and educate the public on reducing their own carbon
2040 footprint through such mechanisms as purchasing electric vehicles.

2041 *Air Quality*

2042 In recent years, concerns have been raised about the contribution of OHV
2043 recreation to diminished air quality. Potential air quality impacts include
2044 dust emissions, including particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) and
2045 fugitive dust. The Division, its SVRAs, as well as federal and local
2046 agencies are under legal mandate and increasing pressure to lessen
2047 these potential public health impacts where OHV activity is determined by
2048 appropriate study to contribute to exceedences of maximum allowable
2049 ambient air quality standards.

2050 The Division is determining approaches for minimizing air quality impacts
2051 while working with industry and other public agencies to improve system

2052 performance of OHVs, improve public health, and maintain and protect
2053 essential natural resources.

2054 For example, Hollister Hills SVRA staff developed and implemented a
2055 noise and air quality monitoring program which provided baseline
2056 information on the sources and amount of dust and noise from OHV
2057 activities. Staff monitor dust impacts at locations selected in consultation
2058 with the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District. Sound
2059 monitoring is on-going with the assistance of park staff and park vendor.
2060 This information is used for an adaptive management program, including
2061 a menu of feasible possible management responses in areas identified as
2062 producing excessive dust or sound emissions.

2063 *Asbestos*

2064 The potential environmental hazards and associated public health and
2065 safety risks related to exposure to asbestos have gained increased
2066 regulatory attention throughout California. Correspondingly, OHV
2067 recreational opportunities are being adversely affected by land closures
2068 related to asbestos.

2069 In addition, the asbestos dilemma has raised significant public concern.
2070 Political and scientific debate continues over the perceived versus actual
2071 health risks asbestos may present, as well as the validity of sampling and
2072 testing methods used during environmental analysis. Conflicting
2073 information, data, and research, as well as regulatory positions on the
2074 health risks associated with asbestos further promulgates conflict and
2075 uncertainty among agencies, stakeholders, and interested parties.

2076 *Recycling and Waste Reduction Programs*

2077 Since the early 2000s, the Division and its SVRAs have increased solid
2078 waste recycling and decreased the tonnage going to landfills. The overall
2079 recycling rate has increased from below 20% in 2000 to over 50% in each
2080 of the past several years. Staff specialists are researching and looking to
2081 further improve recycling and waste disposal opportunities. Opportunities
2082 include collecting and evaluating data related to waste and consumption
2083 to raise the awareness of staff and visitors. In addition, several of the
2084 SVRAs have instituted unique recycling programs. For example:

2085 **Hungry Valley SVRA**

2086 Hungry Valley SVRA works with a local nonprofit to collect and recycle
2087 materials generated at the park. Volunteers from the local Boys and Girls
2088 Club collect the contents of the locking recycle bins located throughout
2089 the SVRA. . The SVRA is provided with the weight information reported in
2090 accordance with AB 75 while the Boys & Girls Club gets to keep the
2091 proceeds from the recycling.

2092 **Ocotillo Wells SVRA**

2093 Many OHV enthusiasts head to Ocotillo Wells SVRA to celebrate
2094 Thanksgiving Day and participate in the tradition of deep frying a
2095 Thanksgiving turkey.

2096 Ocotillo Wells staff collects the used cooking oil and recycles it to power
2097 their retrofitted Kubota RUV
2098 1100. Staff drives the Kubota
2099 through the SVRA camping
2100 areas for trash pickup and
2101 onsite grease collection for
2102 much of the year. A grease
2103 recycling center is located
2104 next to the District Office for
2105 all visitors who wish to recycle
2106 their used vegetable oil.



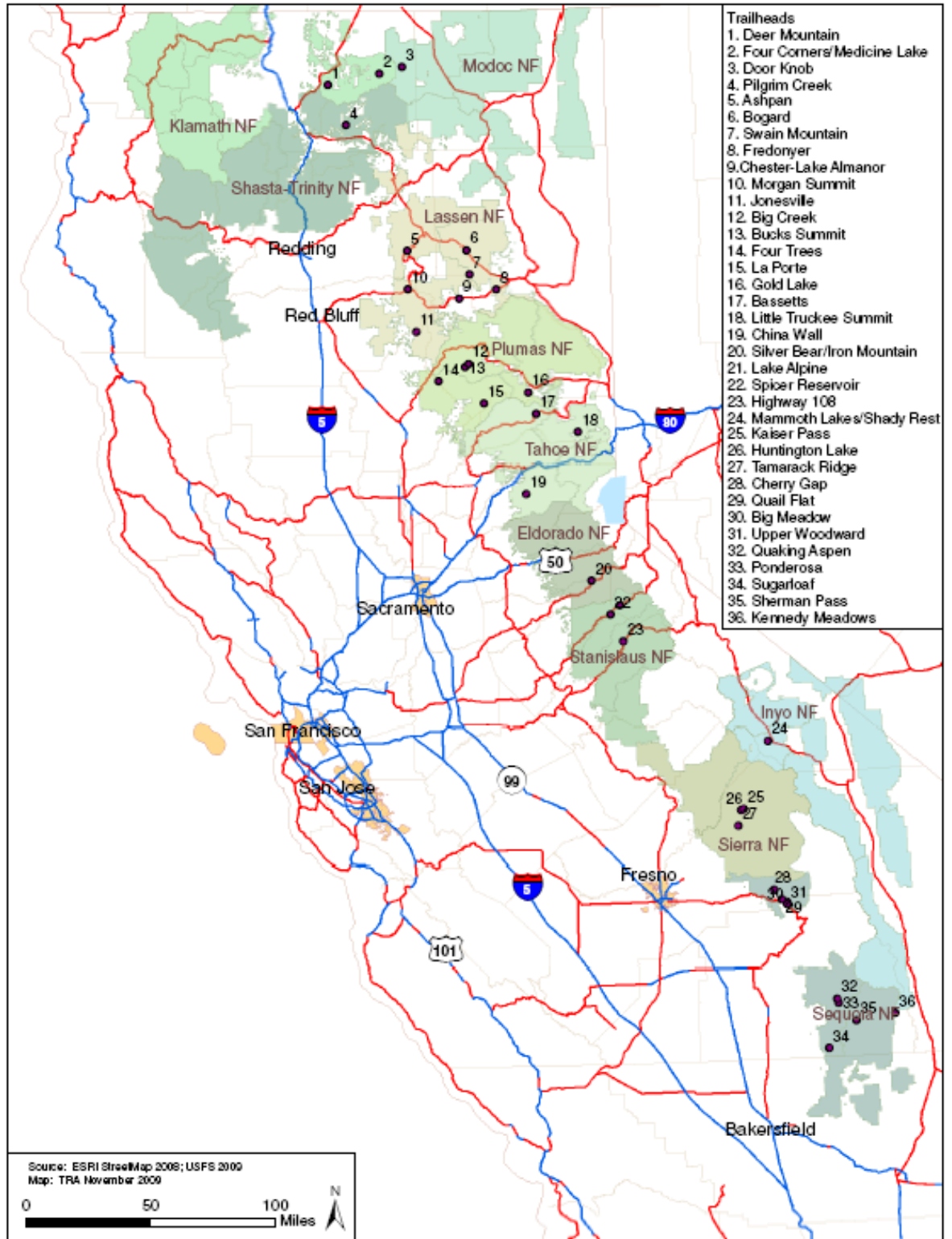
2107 ***Over Snow Vehicle Program Environmental Impact Report***

2108 To support motorized winter recreation, the Division supports a system of
2109 trailheads and groomed trails for snowmobile use.

2110 The Division provides funding to 11 National Forests and 3 County Public
2111 Works/Road Departments for the operation, maintenance and grooming of
2112 winter recreation trails and trailheads within California. The trails are
2113 maintained for snowmobile or OSV use; however, Nordic skiers, mushers
2114 (driving dog sleds) and snowshoers also use the parking areas and
2115 groomed trail systems.

2116 The Division is in the process of completing the OSV Program
2117 Environmental Impact Report on the program. During the 2009-2010
2118 winter season, the Division contracted with the California State University
2119 Sacramento (CSUS) to conduct a pilot visitor survey at 11 trailheads to
2120 obtain accurate baseline information on winter trail use. In all, 4,123
2121 individual visitors to the trailheads participated in the surveys.

2122 The survey will continue through the 2013-2014 winter season at all
2123 35 trailheads in the program. This effort serves both a continuation and
2124 expansion of data collection efforts that will provide the Division with
2125 critical systematic and complete data related to social and resource
2126 impacts of winter recreation in the OSV Snow Program. The EIR will
2127 identify any significant environmental impacts of the over-snow activity
2128 and provide mitigation measures where feasible and appropriate to the
2129 given circumstances.



OSV Snow Program Trailheads

2132 *Geothermal Development at Ocotillo Wells SVRA*

2133 OHV opportunities on federal lands are under threat of closures and/or
2134 under severe use limitations as a result of conversions to renewable
2135 energy development including geothermal, wind, and solar. Decisions to
2136 allocate public lands for these activities threaten to reduce the amount of
2137 land available for OHV recreation and adversely impact other OHV areas
2138 in the state.

2139 The BLM owns and manages lands throughout California, a portion of
2140 which are being explored and developed for geothermal resources. Over
2141 the last several years, the BLM has experienced an increase in demand
2142 for permits for energy development on their land. In response, the BLM
2143 has issued several permits for geothermal exploration, drilling, and field
2144 development in California.

2145 Of interest to the Division is a major energy development project
2146 proposed in the Truckhaven lands near the Salton Sea, within the
2147 boundaries of Ocotillo Wells SVRA. The Division is concerned geothermal
2148 development projects in this area could negatively impact OHV
2149 recreational opportunities as well as water resources and ecosystem
2150 habitats but continues to work with collaboration with BLM.

2151 BLM is considering developing geothermal leases on 14,731 acres of
2152 lands in Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Geothermal development would restrict or
2153 reduce OHV access to certain areas of Ocotillo Wells SVRA during
2154 construction and operation of proposed geothermal wells.

2155 As a result of these concerns, Ocotillo Wells SVRA staff are working
2156 closely with the BLM to assess impacts to OHV opportunity, and to
2157 evaluate and develop mitigation measures to minimize impacts on the
2158 OHV community. Ocotillo Wells SVRA staff are monitoring this situation
2159 closely, and encouraging the BLM to evaluate resource management
2160 plans, analyze environmental impacts, and conduct cost benefit analysis
2161 to determine the appropriateness of specific project sites.

2162 *Expansion of Twenty-Nine Palms Marine Corps Base*

2163 In 2008, the U.S. Navy announced its interest to expand the Twenty-nine
2164 Palms Marine Corp Base. The military expansion would include

2165 development into Johnson Valley OHV Open Area, located southeast of
2166 Barstow. In 2008, the Marine Corps submitted an Application for
2167 Withdrawal of Public Lands to the BLM that includes approximately
2168 422,000 acres. The expansion would impact a significant portion of the
2169 188,000 acre Johnson Valley Open Area and have considerable
2170 repercussions for the OHV community as Johnson Valley is the largest
2171 and one of the most popular OHV destinations in the county.

2172 The Marine Corps is in the process of evaluating its options for base
2173 expansion. The BLM and the military are currently conducting an
2174 environmental analysis on the proposed use of the land. Expected
2175 completion of the draft EIS is 2010, and the final EIS in 2011.

2176 The Division is working closely with OHV recreation groups, BLM, and the
2177 military to assess alternatives and seek plausible solutions allowing for
2178 continued access to public lands for OHV recreation in the Johnson
2179 Valley OHV Open Area.

2180 *Urban Encroachment*

2181 Urbanization over the last ten years has created conflicts in many
2182 existing managed OHV recreation areas which were once far removed
2183 from housing and commercial development. As more homes and
2184 businesses are built in these remote areas, the remaining lands available
2185 for OHV opportunity are receiving increased use, potentially resulting in
2186 impacts to recreational opportunity, the outdoors experience, and cultural
2187 and natural resources. Conflicts between OHV recreation use and
2188 neighboring land owners has become a management issue, particularly in
2189 relation to noise, dust, and trespass onto private land. OHV opportunities
2190 are increasingly threatened due to land use allocations and regulations,
2191 zoning laws, and increased concern for environmental impacts.

2192 *Rubicon Trail Assessment / Water Quality Management*

2193 The famous Rubicon Trail extends east from the Wentworth Springs area
2194 of El Dorado County through to the west side of Lake Tahoe. In 2009, the
2195 Rubicon Trail was threatened with potential closure due to a Cleanup and
2196 Abatement Order (CAO) from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality
2197 Control Board (Water Board) for sections along the 12-mile trail located
2198 in El Dorado County.

2199 The CAO charged that, among other things, the trail discharged
2200 excessive amounts of sediment to water bodies. It required a means by
2201 which trail segments in need of improvement be identified, improvements
2202 be implemented to minimize sediment discharge, and that the
2203 improvements be documented and reported to the Water Board.

2204 Fortunately, nearly a year before the issuance of the CAO, the Division
2205 asked the California Geological Survey (CGS) to conduct an assessment
2206 of the El Dorado County portion of the trail. CGS surveyed the trail using
2207 two different types of Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite signal
2208 receivers. The resulting line data was downloaded into a Geographic
2209 Information System (GIS) database. CGS then resurveyed the trail,
2210 taking note of poor design features and areas of acute erosion and
2211 proposing suggested fixes for these areas. This additional data was
2212 uploaded to the GIS Rubicon Trail database. The GIS database also
2213 contains the regional geology and soils coverage for the area.

2214 El Dorado County now has an electronic map—a GIS database—of their
2215 portion of the Rubicon Trail. The map is also an assessment which
2216 indicates where fixes to the trail are necessary to prevent erosion.
2217 Because it is electronic, it can be updated as trail fixes are made and
2218 digital photographs and text documents can be electronically appended to
2219 specific spots on the trail. The electronic map has become an essential
2220 tool for El Dorado County to meet its obligation under the CAO, and—
2221 more importantly—it is an essential tool for the county to maintain the
2222 Rubicon Trail in a sustainable, responsible manner.